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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you and your loved one plan to stay in, eat out, or do a little of both this Valentine's Day?

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INSIDE

Resentment

Japan's government is questioning whether it should spend so much on U.S. troops.

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'Historic' Snow

Planes were grounded, trains stood still and Greyhound buses weren't rolling in the Mid-Atlantic region.

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Watterson Speaks

Bill Watterson, creator of "Calvin and Hobbes," is the cartooning world's version of J.D. Salinger.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

No more evidentiary hearing

Judge also quashes US govt subpoenas

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Fitial says 'truth has prevailed' in massage issue. PAGE 2

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court quashed yesterday the U.S. government's subpoenas and voided a court order for evidentiary hearing in connection with the temporary release of a federal detainee at the request of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, saying the U.S. government's case was speculative "at this point."

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START SMART

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Some 200 Marianas High School students work on one of the activities at the "Senior Start Smart Seminar" sponsored by Northern Marianas College at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday. The seminar, which wraps up today with Saipan Southern High School students as participants, is geared toward educating high school seniors about college.

See story on Page 5

When to get your shots

Recommended adult immunization schedule by vaccine and age group:

Everyone | Recommended if risk factor present

Vaccine	Age 19-49	50-64	65 and older
Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	1 dose of tetanus, then 1 booster every 10 years		Booster every 10 years
HPV	3 doses for women		
Chicken pox (varicella)	2 doses		
Shingles (zoster)			1 dose
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	1 or 2 doses	1 dose	
Influenza		1 dose each year	
Pneumonia	1 to 2 doses		1 dose
Hepatitis A	2 doses		
Hepatitis B	3 doses		
Meningitis	1 or more doses		

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Judy Treible

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Seniors aren't getting vital vaccinations, study finds

"Millions of Americans forgo routine vaccinations for preventable diseases. Some 40,000 to 50,000 adults die every year as a result."

By DAVID GOLDSTEIN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—States require that children have all their immunizations before they can enroll in school. Veterinarians send reminder cards to pet owners when Fido or Tabby is due for a shot. No such safety net exists for adults, however, and especially for the elderly, who are particularly susceptible to many diseases that vaccines can prevent, according to a new report about the low rate of adult immunization.

It found that a third of seniors had received no immunizations against pneumonia in 36 states as of 2008. Just less than a third of people who were older than 65 also went without the sea-

See VACCINATIONS on Page 4

New NI polls open to new candidates

Special election for Northern Islands mayor on March 27

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission disclosed yesterday that the special election for the Northern Islands mayor will be open to any qualified candidates besides the opposing teams of Covenant Party's Ramona Rebuenog and independent bet Tobias Aldan.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Friday set the special election on March 27 to fill the seat of the mayor of Northern Islands, in the wake of a court ruling

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Accord OKs Guam Guard to recruit in NMI. PAGE 2

3 Japanese lawmakers make brief stop on Saipan. **PAGE 5**

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Local

Fitial says 'truth has prevailed' in massage issue

Ex-lawmaker says full local, federal investigation still needed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said yesterday that U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson's decision to quash subpoenas and remove from court calendar a Feb. 17 evidentiary hearing on the alleged unauthorized temporary release of Fitial's masseuse from prison "has brought resolution" to the matter.

"I have always believed that the truth shall always prevail. Today, I am very pleased that the truth has brought resolution to this matter," said Fitial in a statement when asked for comment.

Buckingham, in a separate statement, said the CNMI "believes the judgment of Judge Munson is consistent with the law and puts an end to this matter."

"The Commonwealth is grateful that the U.S. District Court considered all the facts and reached an appropriate and fair decision," he said.

He said the Commonwealth had hoped that the case would be resolved informally—"without subpoenas or the threat of an evidentiary hearing."

"The Commonwealth offered Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley the affidavits of the governor and commissioner of Corrections prior to filing the motion to quash the subpoenas. The Commonwealth also offered to provide additional sworn testimony. This and other information is contained in the most recent pleadings of the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, the matters proceeded in court," he said.

Munson issued yesterday a seven-page ruling quashing all subpoenas, granting Buckingham's motion to vacate the Feb. 17, 2010, evidentiary hearing, and has taken the hearing off-calendar.

But one of Fitial's critics, former Rep. Tina Sablan, said "there should still be a full investigation at both the federal and local levels" of all the parties and circumstances involved in the release of an inmate to provide the governor a personal massage service."

Qingmei Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals arrested in January by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to sneak into Guam. She was temporary released from her cell to provide massage therapy to Fitial on Jan. 8.

Sablan said the written testimonies of the governor, Corrections Commissioner Dolores M. Aldan, and other Corrections officers raise more questions than answers. She said the people of the CNMI "deserve answers."

"Our local legislators have unfortunately been too quick to say that this matter is not within their jurisdiction to investigate, and have used the involvement of the federal judiciary as an excuse to do nothing. They are wrong. The governor has committed a clear and egregious abuse of power, and Department of Corrections officials have made decisions that cast great doubt on their judgment, integrity, and ability to ensure public safety," she said.

Members of the 17th Legislature, as well as the Office of the Public Auditor, have taken either a hands-off stance or on a wait-and-see mode on the issue of an inmate's release to give the governor a massage at his house in Gualo Rai.

Others like the House minority bloc inquired with the Office of the Attorney General whether Fitial violated any law. House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said he was told by the attorney general that "the governor did not violate any CNMI laws on the release of the detainee."

'Move on'

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said Munson's decision should now put a stop to the controversy.

"I guess the governor's side has proven itself; that's it's not a violation of law. We need to move on. What happened, had already happened," he said.

Torres said his message to others who may want the controversy to continue: "Swallow your pride, bite the bullet."

Fitial said "while our detractors were consumed on this issue, the administration never shifted its focus from addressing the more pressing matters of the Commonwealth."

"We hope that the community can now move ahead together with the administration in our efforts to continue working toward the common goal of restoring economic prosperity for our islands," he said.

The Fitial administration is also hopeful that the court decision will help ease the concerns of the community and bring clarity to all the confusion that has arisen from the matter.

"My administration looks ahead as we continue working to ensure that every resident is afforded a sustainable and reliable standard of living," said Fitial.

Accord OKs Guam Guard to recruit in NMI

CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial and Guam Gov. P. Felix Camacho will be signing a memorandum of understanding today that would allow the Guam National Guard to train new soldier recruits in the CNMI.

Also present at this historic event will be Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. The signing is set to take place at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill today.

The Guam National Guard recently started recruiting efforts in the CNMI as part of its CMNI initiative.

The Guam Army National Guard embarked on this groundbreaking initiative to augment its force with CNMI recruits. This initiative enables the Guam Guard to meet its target for recruiting, but more importantly, it offers several key opportunities to the CNMI recruits, according to LTC Robert Crisostomo, commander for the GUARNG Recruiting/Retention Battalion.

"One of the key benefits is 'tuition assistance' for that can be used for a college education. Another benefit of being a part of the Guam Guard is what we call G-RAP—The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program. The program allows Guam Guard soldiers to earn money by providing additional leads (prospects) to a recruiter. They can earn up to $3,000 per recruit that they are responsible for bringing into the Guard."

The new recruits from Saipan will be training on island after their initial enlistment in March, Crisostomo said.

"Planning for the enlistment of these new recruits in March is ongoing and the initial interest by the general public is high. Much of the success of this recruiting effort is a result of intense collaboration from all levels of both governments of Guam and the CNMI, to include local and federal entities," he said.

This historical visit by Camacho and Fitial is indicative of the support and attention that this initiative has had and lends credence to the potential impact that it would have on the many citizens who are considering joining the Guam Army National Guard, according to Crisostomo.

There are currently no Guard units in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Boating officers rescue two from stranded boat

Boating Safety officers rescued two fishermen from a stranded boat two to three miles west of Saipan Friday night.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said yesterday that Deolito Ramirez and Apolinario dela Rosa were safe when boating officers found them.

David said the Emergency Management Office called DPS 911 on Friday at 6:42pm and reported a vessel in distress.

Boating Safety officers launched the rescue boat *Zodiac III* at 7:19pm.

At 7:39pm, the officers arrived alongside the boat and found Ramirez and Dela Rosa safe and alert. The officers towed the boat to Smiling Cove Marina.

David said investigation showed that the operator and his angler departed Fishing Base in Garapan at 6am that day.

At 4:30pm to 5pm the two decided to end their trolling and headed back, but the engine died.

After trying to start the engine for an hour, the two called EMO through VHF radio and asked for assistance. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Tinian Hot Pepper Festival
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Whether you join other visitors at the Marianas Visitors Authority's **Tinian Hot Pepper Festival**, celebrate Valentine's Day, mark the Chinese New Year, or just enjoy a long holiday weekend away, this is a perfect weekend to visit Tinian.

The 7th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 13-14, at Tachogna Beach. This cultural celebration of Tinian's internationally coveted spicy pepper, locally known as "donni sali," showcases locally prepared food products, arts and crafts, and island style entertainment by Northern Marianas young singers, band members, and dancers.

Visitors can compete in a variety of competitions, including the challenging Hot Pepper Eating Contest and the "Estofao Pika" Cooking Contest. Visitors can compete in a Karaoke Singing Contest, a Dragon Boat Race, or the Cha Cha Dance Contest. Children and adults alike will enjoy the Hermit Crab Race.

The festival site is a convenient 4 minute walk from the **Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino**, one mile from **Lori Lynn's Hotel** and 1.5 miles from **Fleming Hotel**.

Don't miss the fun this weekend in Tinian!

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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

BASED ON EVALUATION TEAM REPORT:

'NMC report appropriate, meets ACCJC requirements'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Findings of the evaluation team that visited the Northern Marianas College last October showed that the college's midterm report is appropriate and meets the requirements of the accrediting commission.

In a 13-page report submitted to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and provided to NMC after their visit on Oct. 26 and 27, Sherrill L. Amador and Worku Negash said that NMC was able to meet two eligibility requirements (No. 4 and No. 5) and has implemented two commission recommendations (No. 1 and No. 2) dating from a WASC visit in fall 2006.

The first eligibility requirement (No. 4) relates to the hiring of a college president and this was met with the Board of Regents naming Dr. Carmen Fernandez as NMC president. Fernandez was first hired in 2007 on a two-year contract, then rehired in 2009 on a four-year contract.

The second eligibility requirement (No. 5), which pertains to administrative capacity, was met after NMC filled all seven management team positions, each one on two-year contracts.

The four-year contract for the president and the two-year contracts for the management team is "a good beginning," according to the team. It also sees value in providing professional development opportunities to newer managers, especially those who may be new to their areas of responsibility.

The commission's recommendation 1 involved taking steps to ensure that the delivery system used to provide instruction to Rota and Tinian campuses is reliable and works at all times. After thorough review, the board decided to suspend academic instructions on both campuses in Spring 2008. So far, the coordinators for both campuses have completed their institutional program review process and it is the overall goal to resume and expand services offered at both campuses. A feasibility study is now in the works on how to make this happen.

The team said that with the upgrade of the video-teleconferencing connectivity to 2.5 mbps in 2007, the college is now able to provide Rota and Tinian communities with opportunities to attend or participate in various activities happening in other parts of the CNMI. For the first time using VTC, the congressional delegate election debate was held on all three islands in 2008.

The commission's recommendation 2 focused on sufficient training for the Board of Regents on accreditation requirements. The team has deemed the regents now sufficiently trained in this matter.

'Team recommendations'

Based on the team's observation and analysis, NMC has a well-defined strategic planning process model that integrates program review and budget allocations that is based on the college's mission and strategic goals.

Based on NMC financial reports, the team believes that NMC is managing its funds well and is living within its means.

Significant improvements were also noted at the college bookstore, which is partially subsidized by the college's local funds. It saw sales improvement and installation of new software.

The 25-percent increase in NMC's Fall 2009 enrollment was also noted by the evaluation team, which encouraged NMC to further enhance its enrollment management plans by tying enrollment projections to annual budget projections.

Required staff evaluation, funding

The team also verified that staff evaluations are being done at employee anniversary dates and about 80 percent of the staff have already been evaluated at the time of the team's visit.

By December 2009, the report said, the college plans to achieve 100 percent completion rate with all employees.

The report noted the extensive repair, renovation and modernization done on campus and verified that funding has been set aside to proceed with more repairs and remodeling of other facilities, as prescribed in the Facilities Master Plan.

The team did not see evidence of salary schedule surveys to examine competitiveness but determined that a consultant is currently working on a salary study to address this issue.

WASC representatives are expected to be on island for special visit to NMC any time soon. The commission has formally accepted the college's midterm report but noted that the "series of events" happening at the college may affect its accreditation, alluding to the recent suspension of NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez in the wake of personnel issues and allegations of grade changing.

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RFP issued for MPLT's own building design

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust's plan to construct its own building on private land takes another step forward with the release of a request for proposal on the building's architectural and engineering design.

MPLT has drawn criticism for its decision to buy private land on Capital Hill instead of accepting the Office of the Public Auditor's offer in 2008 for a free and unlimited use of a government property as headquarters for its operations, also on Capital Hill.

Acting Public Works Secretary Joseph M. Inos Jr., Procurement and Supply director Herman S. Sablan, and MPLT chair Phillip Mendiola-Long issued on Friday an RFP for the "design of MPLT administration building and trust office" on Saipan.

The deadline for submitting sealed bids is Feb. 19, 2010.

Mendiola-Long said yesterday that the solicitation of proposals for the office building's design "is a part of our due diligence process in examining the costs involved in building our office and the monthly cost savings the trust would accomplish, if it is found to be economical to proceed."

"The RFP is just one exercise of a series of due diligence exercises which will help us decide the appropriate decision that is in the best interest of the fund and our beneficiary, the general fund," he told *Saipan Tribune* when asked about the RFP.

MPLT's decision to build the project will be based on the agency's full consideration and examination of three scenarios, he said.

Mendiola-Long said these include staying on Capital Hill. He said MPLT is in the middle of renovating the former CEC building.

Another option is designing and building a new building on land acquired by the board early last year, and the third option, purchase an existing building to relocate in.

"The purpose of weighing these three scenarios is to identify the plan that can reduce annual expenses and/or produce income so that we can remit more interest income to the general fund," the MPLT chairman added.

In 2008, MPLT's plan sparked public controversy because of its tentative cost of approximately $700,000 and its proposed location on private land.

A year later, a lawmaker was still questioning MPLT for its decision to buy land to build an office rather than rent office space. Rep. Ramon A. Tetuteb (R-Saipan) had said MPLT purchased the private property for $68 per square meter, $3 less than the appraised value.

MPLT is tasked with managing money generated from leases of public land.

Worker seeks new trial in lawsuit vs Dynasty

By FERDIE DE LA TORREE
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REPORTER

A Nepalese worker has asked for a new trial in her discrimination lawsuit against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for her termination in 2006.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff, counsel for Parmila Pariyar, asserted that following announcement of the verdict, they discovered evidence that the jury apparently did not follow the law in reaching its verdict.

Woodruff said it is clear that Pariyar made a prima facie case for discrimination based on her pregnancy and that the defendant presented no credible evidence of a legitimate non-discriminatory reason for the adverse action against Pariyar.

"Accordingly, no reasonable jury could find for the defendant on the evidence presented at trial, and plaintiff therefore should be afforded a new trial," the lawyer said.

Pariyar alleged that she was discriminated against and terminated because of her pregnancy.

Tinian Dynasty hired Pariyar as a casino dealer in February 2002. On June 29, 2005, Pariyar gave birth to a baby girl at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Two months later, on Aug. 7, 2005, Pariyar's contract was renewed and Woodruff said that she was even promoted to casino inspector on April 15, 2006. Soon after, Tinian Dynasty received the hospital billings from CHC.

On June 21, 2006, the casino general manager called Pariyar to his office and informed her of the non-renewal of her contract.

Last Jan. 8, a federal court found the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino not liable to pay for damages sought by the Nepalese worker.

G. Anthony Long, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., which owns Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, told *Saipan Tribune* that there was nothing improper with Tinian Dynasty's decision not to renew Miss Pariyar's employment contract.

VACCINATIONS

From Page 1

sonal flu vaccine that year.

"The country has an absolutely stunningly first-rate system for immunizing children, but too many adults fall through the cracks," said Dr. William Schaffner, an expert on infectious diseases at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

The report was prepared by the Trust for America's Health, a nonpartisan health research group; the Infectious Diseases Society of America; and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the largest health care philanthropy in the country.

The report, "Adult Immunization: Shots to Save Lives," says that millions of Americans forgo routine vaccinations for preventable diseases. Some 40,000 to 50,000 adults die every year as a result.

Failure to use the vaccines adds about $10 billion annually to the cost of heath care, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Seasonal flu can lead to pneumonia among the elderly, and it can be particularly lethal in that age group, experts said.

Oregon had the highest immunization rate for pneumonia among seniors. Just more than one in four didn't get the vaccine. Washington, D.C., had the lowest rate; almost half the elderly population hadn't gotten it.

One reason for the low immunization rates among adults, according to the report, was that unlike schoolchildren or the military, many adults aren't connected to some kind of institution or network that requires vaccinations.

The report also says that adults usually see medical specialists for particular problems and, unlike children, don't have primary-care physicians, who oversee their patients' overall health.

Other roadblocks were the high costs of some vaccines, misinformation about their effectiveness and safety, and insurance coverage that limits or doesn't offer vaccine coverage.

Concern about the widespread availability of vaccines has figured in the debate over health care. Both the House of Representatives and Senate bills contain language that would make vaccines more easily obtainable.

"We need a national strategy to make vaccines a regular part of medical care and educate Americans about the effectiveness and safety of vaccines," said Jeffrey Levi, the executive director of the Trust for America's Health.

The CDC has recommended that everyone older than 65 be vaccinated for pneumonia. It hopes to reach a 90 percent immunization rate this year.

The report cites a 2007 National Immunization Survey by the CDC to highlight the problem of low adult vaccination rates:

■ Just 2.1 percent of eligible adults had received vaccines for tetanus, whooping cough and diphtheria.

■ Less than 2 percent of patients 60 and older had gotten the vaccine for shingles, an extremely painful condition.

■ Just 10 percent of women 18 to 26 years old, the eligible age for the human papillomavirus vaccine, had received it.

■ Only 36.1 percent of adults have been vaccinated annually for seasonal flu.

"It sort of plateaued at that level," Glen Nowack, a spokesman for the CDC, said of the seasonal flu shots. "The next groups are not as easily persuadable. They have not been in the habit of getting the influenza vaccine. They have concerns about it, or don't believe it's going to be as effective. We've been working real hard to try and persuade them."

POLLS

From Page 1

declaring the position vacant.

On Jan. 29, the Supreme Court issued an order vacating the order of the CNMI trial court that had declared Rebuenog the election winner of the 2009 general election for the mayor of Northern Islands.

Article VI, section 2 (b) of the CNMI Constitution mandates that a vacancy in the office of the mayor shall be filled by a special election if one half or more of the term remains.

Whoever wins this special election will serve a new term of five years, like the governor.

In his declaration last Friday, Fitial instructed the Election Commission to ensure that polling places will open for voting from 8am to 6pm on March 27.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said yesterday that candidates have until Feb. 19 to file their nominating petitions and candidacy documents.

He explained that the special election will be conducted as a normal election that is open to qualified candidates to the position. This means Rebuenog and Aldan will have to file new candidacy papers.

Last Saturday was the deadline for the voter registration for the special poll and Guerrero said they expect 131 voters from the municipality.

From the previous 149 voters, the figure was trimmed down to 131 after 18 were declared disqualified by the Election Commission.

Guerrero estimates that the commission needs between $15,000 to $20,000 to conduct the special poll for the Northern Islands.

The executive director said he will recommend to the CEC board the designation of the office's customer service area as the polling place for the special election.

To avoid any unnecessary expenses for the activity, Guerrero said CEC will work closely with the Emergency Management Office to determine how many individuals are currently living in the Northern Islands.

In the last general election, the commission spent $33,000 to hire helicopters to bring its staff to the Northern Islands so voters there could cast their votes.

"We're now working with the administration on the needed funding for this special election," Guerrero said.

Last Friday was the first day for voters to request for absentee ballots. It will close on March 1.

On March 12, CEC will designate the polling places while the deadline for the last day for absentee voting for emergency absence is on March 26.

Filing of campaign financial disclosure reports is due on May 15, 2010.

HEARING

From Page 1

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted Corrections Commissioner Dolores M. Aldan's motions to quash the U.S. government's subpoenas and void the court order for an evidentiary hearing on Feb. 17, 2010.

■■■

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that Judge Alex R. Munson's decision "has brought resolution" to the matter. "I have always believed that the truth shall always prevail. Today, I am very pleased that the truth has brought resolution to this matter," said Fitial in a statement when asked for comment. ***See story on Page 2.***

■■■

Munson said that key to the court's decision is its concern that it is being asked by the U.S. government to occupy an essentially investigatorial role in support of a motion that is "perhaps unavoidably, entirely speculative at this point in time."

"The court agrees that, given the paucity of grounds other than 'possible prejudice' to plaintiff [U.S. government] and defendant [detainee Qingmei Cheng], traditional investigation and use of the grand jury are more appropriate than a speculative, open-ended fact-finding hearing conducted under the aegis of the court," the judge said.

Cheng, 28, was among 24 Chinese nationals recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to sneak into Guam on a boat.

The U.S. government had asked Munson to conduct an evidentiary hearing on the alleged unauthorized release of Cheng from the Department of Corrections on Jan. 8 so she could provide massage therapy to Fitial, who was complaining of severe back pain. Aldan, accompanied by three Corrections officers, had escorted Cheng to the governor's house in Gualo Rai. Cheng was promptly returned to the DOC after treating the governor.

"The [U.S.] government submits that an evidentiary hearing is needed to ascertain the facts and circumstances of these events, and to determine whether any prejudice was caused thereby," assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley had said in court papers.

The Office of the Attorney General, acting as counsel for Aldan, had asked the court to quash the subpoenas and void the order for an evidentiary hearing.

In granting the motions yesterday, Munson said he agrees with a case law requiring that the U.S. government must provide at least some facts tending to show evidence of the prejudice alleged.

Here, Munson said, the U.S. government has only expressed a legitimate but wholly unsupported concern that its case or Cheng's rights may have been prejudiced by the unusual events.

"The court is now persuaded that plaintiff's burden is greater than that and has not been met," he said.

The judge noted that Cheng has a lawyer with whom she can speak confidentially and openly.

"It is her attorney's duty, and not that of plaintiff, to determine if the defendant's rights have been compromised," Munson said.

The U.S. government, Munson said, essentially concedes that it does not presently know if any prejudice has occurred.

However, the judge said, the U.S. government has sufficient investigatory resources at its disposal and enough processes and procedures to conduct its own inquiry into this unprecedented event.

"The court concludes that it is inappropriate at this juncture to inject itself into such proceedings. Should plaintiff later be able to offer some evidence in support of its concerns, the court could entertain a new motion," Munson said.

As acknowledged by the U.S. attorney in its opposition, Munson said, all subpoenaed participants face at least some possibility of being deemed criminally culpable.

"Because of that, the court is also concerned that it might need to assure individual counsel for each person subpoenaed. At that point, the evidentiary hearing will have become a full-blown adversarial proceeding but no one involved—the court, the plaintiff, or the subpoenaed parties—will have any idea where it is going, if anywhere," he said.

Three Japanese lawmakers make brief stop on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Three Japanese lawmakers who play major roles in the ongoing talks about the relocation of U.S. Marines from Japan to Guam will meet on Saipan with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other CNMI officials on their way to Guam on Wednesday.

The visiting members of the National Diet or the Japan Legislature include Mikio Shimoji, Tomoko Abe, and Daisuke Nagayama, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' legal counsel, Teresa Kim, said yesterday.

Shimoji is the policy chief of the People's New Party, one of the tripartite ruling coalitions in Japan, while Abe is the policy chief of the Social Democratic Party.

Kim said the Japanese lawmakers will be on Saipan "for approximately two hours before proceeding to Guam to meet with Guam leaders."

During their short time on Saipan, they will meet with Fitial, Inos, House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) "to discuss current issues relevant to the CNMI and Japan and discuss any plans they may have so as to improve our tourism and economy," said Kim.

Japan continues to be the CNMI's main tourism market. In December alone, 15,638 visitors from Japan came to the CNMI but this marked a 24 percent decrease compared to December 2008.

"The CNMI has always enjoyed a great working relationship with Japan. We recognize that Japan is our number one tourism source market and always welcome opportunities to meet with leaders of Japan to listen to their ideas and implement them when possible," Kim added.

The Fitial administration has invited the media for a news briefing with the visiting Japanese lawmakers at 4:15pm Wednesday at the Coral Ocean Point.

The three Japanese lawmakers' visit comes at a time when Guam is on the verge of a massive military buildup, although Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho has asked for a delay until after 2014.

A part of the realignment plan for the U.S. military in the region involves the relocation of some 8,000 Marines and their families from Okinawa to Guam by 2014.

NMC

Public School System Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan addresses seniors of Marianas High School at the recent two-day Senior Start Smart Seminar hosted by PSS and the Northern Marianas College's College Access Challenge Project. The event was held at the Saipan World Resort on Feb. 8, 2010. Seniors from Kagman and Saipan Southern High Schools attended the second day of the event.

MHS seniors join 'Start Smart' for college

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 200 senior students from Marianas High School attended yesterday's maiden session of the Start Smart seminar organized by the Northern Marianas College in collaboration with the Public School System.

Hosted by NMC's College Access Challenge Grant Program, the event aims to prepare and encourage public school students to pursue college education after high school.

Both PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera welcomed the participants and promoted the island's only community college as the wise and best choice to start their postsecondary education.

NMC alumnus and former lawmaker Joseph Camacho also inspired seniors to strive hard for their dream careers.

To provide a clear picture of what students could pursue after high school, panelists presented their views on the topic "I'm graduating. Now what?" They included John Gonzales, Lumie Bermudes, Viola Alepuyo, and Alfred Ada.

According to Gerald Galang, 17, all speakers were clear in their message about the important role of education in one's life.

Galang, who admitted wanting to join the military after graduation, said it is also his dream to pursue a career at NMC. He wants to take up a bachelor's degree at NMC.

"It's really my plan to study at NMC…but for now, I have to fulfill my dream of joining the military first to help my family," he said.

Among yesterday's topics, Galang said the various scholarship opportunities offered at the college, requirements, and processes are what truly inspired him.

NMC officials and representatives also gave presentations on how to start at NMC. They included Galvin Guerrero, who updated students about the college's accreditation and its importance; Student Council president Miles Rodriguez spoke about the life of a student; and Shirley Sablan talked about the difference of starting at NMC than other schools.

Today, hundreds of students from Saipan Southern High School and Kagman High School are expected to participate in the second session of the seminar.

Besides breakout sessions, NMC also provided self-evaluation forms to all participating students at the conclusion of the event.

CDA's interest collection shows 14 percent increase in FY 2009

The Commonwealth Development Authority's collection rate on interest payments and late charges increased by 14 percent in Fiscal Year 2009.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho disclosed last week that from Fiscal Year 2008's collection of $481,000, the figure rose to $556,000 last fiscal year, which ended on Sept. 30, 2009.

This collection covers interest, late charges, and miscellaneous fees.

Saipan Tribune learned that CDA uses this collection to fund its operation and other projects such as paying for building rent, utilities, and supplies.

Camacho said the upswing was due to, among other factors, the realization of many borrowers that they have to start paying their loans and not rely on "false hopes."

Based on the fiscal years' collection trend, CDA was on a steady path since 2003 until 2008.

Camacho described FY 2008 as a "bad year" for CDA. It was also the same period when the Legislature made an attempt to forgive all CDA debts. Luckily for CDA, the attempt failed.

After 2008, the numbers began rebounding, Camacho said.

Mainly because of the bad economy, Camacho said many businesses were forced to focus on their on-island clientele, both private and government.

"[They were able to pay] because their core clientele are here and they are not dependent on outside markets. Their clients are both the government and the private sector," Camacho said.

Besides collections from interest and miscellaneous fees, CDA also generates funds from rents, proceeds from sale of assets and foreclosed properties, and receivables from government entities. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

MICHELLE ATALIG
P.O. BOX 506432
SAIPAN, MP 96950

(670)233-0935

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of:	)	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0068
TAIME ATALIG THING Minor Child By:	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
MICHELLE ATALIG Petitioner	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 24, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205 A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2010.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Everblue is currently operates over 100 retail locations in California, Florida, Hawaii, New York, Texas, New Jersey, Georgia, Missouri, Louisiana, Colorado, Virginia, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Alabama, Arizona, Michigan and as well as in Puerto Rico and Guam.
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$164,000 in poker fees eyed for Rota, Tinian projects

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In only less than a month since the 17th Legislature took office, two local bills have so far been filed seeking to appropriate a total of $164,000 in poker license fees for Tinian and Rota. An appropriations bill for Saipan has yet to be filed.

House Local Bill 17-3, introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), seeks $126,000 from poker and pachinko slot machine license fees on Rota to go toward three projects and programs, including $70,000 for the operations and improvements at Rota's Medical Referral Office.

Santos' local bill also seeks to appropriate $41,000 from poker fees for the operations and equipment at the Office of the Mayor of Rota, and $15,000 for the housing stipends of Rota residents attending Northern Marianas College's Saipan campus.

Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian) introduced House Local Bill 17-5, which seeks to appropriate for three programs $38,000 in poker and pachinko slot machines pursuant to Tinian Local Law 14-2.

Conner seeks to appropriate $30,000 for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, and $4,000 for the monthly subsistence allowance for dialysis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, post-cervical and vascular accident patients from Tinian.

The other $4,000 will be for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for the Tinian Little League. The 2010 CNMI Little League District Tournament will be held on Tinian.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, however, has yet to file a pork barrel bill because of controversies surrounding its organizational session which was called twice—the first one was called by then former and now re-elected chairman Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and the second one was called by House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

At least three other local bills have been filed so far. The first one, HLB 17-1, seeks to suspend the implementation of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008. Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) introduced the local bill on Jan. 28.

HLB 17-2, introduced by Tebuteb, seeks to amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 and was also introduced on Jan. 28, while Rep. Raymond D. Palacios (Cov-Saipan) introduced HLB 17-4, seeking to rename an existing road in Susupe, from Jesus Guerrero Road to Tun Jesus (Kabayu) Street.

Tinian Camporee: Troop 912 Scouts

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, Camacho will be submitting a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.

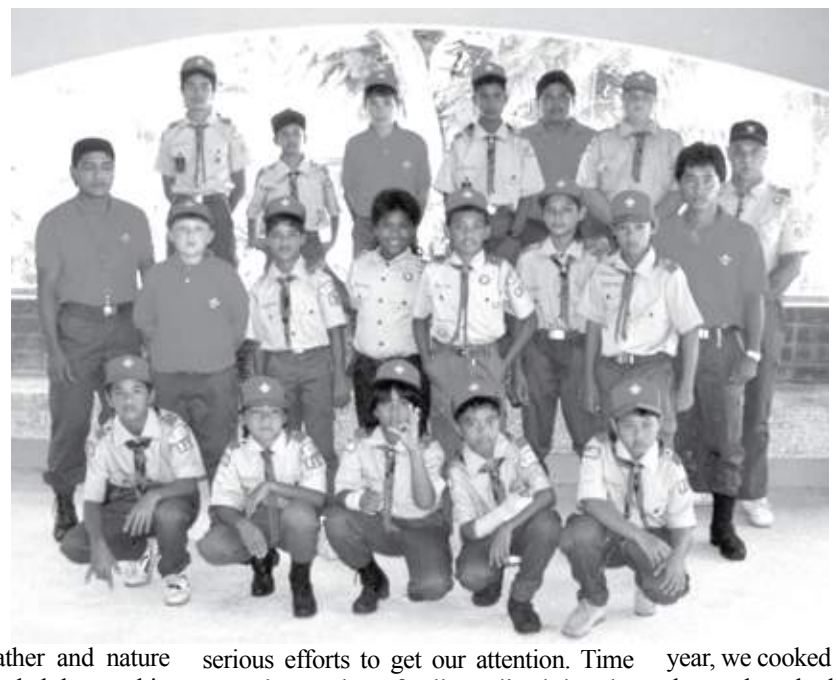
We were scheduled to leave on Sunday, July 7, at 8am from Smiling Cove, but the weather did not permit. The captain of the *Super Emerald* said that the boat can make it to Tinian but it would be a rough ride for the kids and he didn't not want to take any chances. We were early and had already put on board all our camping gear and supplies before the captain announced that we would try again Monday morning.

When the announcement was made, Roque remarked, "I hate that guy telling us we can't go." That guy was Mr. Cal Reyes' assistant. He has been very helpful, mindful, and concerned with the safety of the kids. On Monday, we tried our luck again with the weather and nature was still angry but had cooled down a bit. We rocked and rolled and five of our boys threw up. Mr. Matias lay on the floor. Mr. Flores had to lean on a post. Only the little ones like Jay, Janie, and Dominic endured the voyage and did not show any signs of nausea nor felt sick.

Setting up camp was an effort. First, the ground was rocky and hard. There was no shade, it was hot, and three tents had missing parts. The worst part was the new boys not knowing how to set up a tent. Only Jonathan, Ansen, and Tony knew how and the new boys tried their best not to listen to any orders. Seven tents went up. Roque and the dads shared the tent that was the most improvised. This tent did not have accessories but went up with the help of many ropes tied between the trees.

Swimming was foremost in the boys' mind. Adults followed the boys to the boat basin and everybody jumped into the water.

Boys pushed other boys off the ramps and there were excitement and playful shouts and activities. We heard whistles blown several times that sounded like serious efforts to get our attention. Time passed us and we finally realized that the opening ceremony and gathering for all boy scouts and leaders was taking place without Troop 912. We reluctantly got out of the water and proceeded to the gathering. We were in our shorts, shirtless, and towels wrapped around our waist.



Troop 913 had just finished introducing all their boys and we started out by saying that we have three experienced boys—Anthony, Jonathan, and Ansen—and the rest were all new: Roque, Kelly, Jay, Juan C., Hudson J., and Dominic. Every other troop was in some kind of formation, standing up straight with eyes forward, or hands behind their back intently listening to Mr. Cal Reyes and to Justice Villagomez and other speakers. Our boys were not interested in the speeches but in poking the persons in front of them and making all kinds of funny things. Kelly would pull grass and put the leaves on top of Roque's hair. Roque only learned of it from others looking and laughing at him.

Sleep was difficult that night. There were no mosquitoes and it didn't rain. I slept outside under a tarp converted into an open tent. The wind blew late at night and the tents swayed and looked as if they were going to fly away. Breakfast was early; we had ham and egg sandwiches. Boys were assigned to their classes. The three experienced ones took merit badge classes like motor boating, fishing, and swimming. The rest had to take basic courses such as first aid, health and safety, knot tying, swimming and compass reading. The morning occupied the boy's time with classes.

Lunch was served and we felt very fortunate for these boys. On Rota, last year, we cooked our food. The boys did all the work and a lot of effort and time were spent on cooking. There was responsibility and cooperation. This year, Tinian was generous, and meals were catered. We did not cook; we did not worry about sufficiency; we did not wait; we did not want for more; we did not wash dishes; we did not keep our plates, nor cups; and we did not clean the kitchen. We ate and we were filled. Every meal was a feast.

Man climbs rooftop, threatens to hold electric line to avoid arrest

A man climbed to the rooftop of a house in Chalan Kanoa early Saturday morning and threatened to touch the electric power drop line to prevent police officers from arresting him for domestic violence.

Police said George Taitano Manglona, 29, only descended from the rooftop when his father arrived after a few minutes and persuaded him to get down.

Manglona was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. A $5,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary liberty.

He was set to appear yesterday afternoon in the Superior Court for his initial appearance.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that a police officer responded to a residence in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday at 3:27am after the Department of Public Safety received a call about a disturbance.

Manacop said that when the police officer arrived, he saw a woman inside a pickup truck while Manglona was outside the vehicle.

Manglona told the officer that everything was fine. When the officer talked with the woman, she disclosed that her boyfriend, Manglona, grabbed her and pushed her into the truck.

As the officer continued talking with the victim, Manglona approached, kissed her, and whispered something to her. When the officer asked what he whispered to her, the victim stated that Manglona instructed her not to tell the officer that he had hurt her.

Manglona then entered the house, saying he wanted to sleep and everyone should leave the premises.

The officer later spotted Manglona climbing the rooftop. As backup police officers climbed to the rooftop to arrest him, Manglona placed his hands on the power drop line, saying that if anyone comes close to him he would kill himself by holding on to the drop line to get electrocuted.

Manglona's father arrived a few minutes later and managed to persuade him to get down. At 4:33am police placed the defendant under arrest.

The victim told police that Manglona had decided earlier to end their relationship, triggering their argument. She said they had just returned to their house in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday at 2:40am after visiting a family member in Finasisu when Manglona started shouting at her.

Manglona allegedly grabbed the victim's shirt collar and told her to get back in the vehicle. When the victim refused to get in, Manglona allegedly kept pushing and telling her to get inside the vehicle. That's when a police officer arrived. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy first birthday to our Fattee Matthew Jordan! We love you like a fat kid loves cake! From your Banana Dork family!

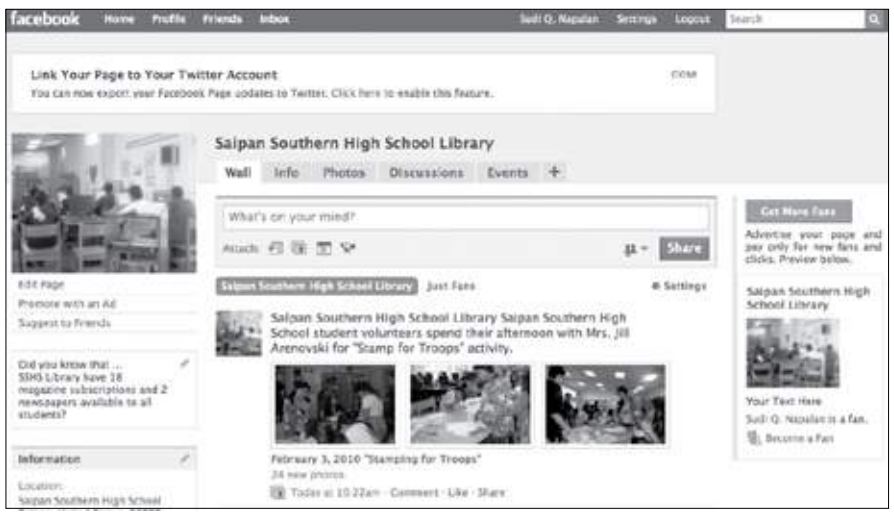
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SSHS library reaches out to community via Facebook

By SUDI NAPALAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Saipan Southern High School's librarian.

Over 100 Facebook users became a fan of Saipan Southern High School Library last week. This is the first school library in the CNMI to establish a Facebook presence.


facebook
Link Your Page to Your Twitter Account
Saipan Southern High School Library
Wall
Info
Photos
Discussions
Events
What's on your mind?
Share
Saipan Southern High School Library Saipan Southern High School student volunteers spend their afternoon with Mrs. Jill Arenovski for "Stamp for Troops" activity.
February 3, 2010 "Stamping for Troops"

The Saipan Southern High School Library page was created on Jan. 31, 2010.

This project aims to unite libraries and the community through social networking using Facebook. Facebook is gaining popularity because of the accessibility and user-friendly features it provides. It is an ideal meeting place for people to talk virtually anywhere. Facebook allows people with common interest to meet at anytime.

Libraries can benefit from the social networking technologies, especially in promoting the library to the community. Librarians can be facilitators for healthy and open discussions for the community using the Internet. Libraries can conduct their book club discussions online, which enable others to participate, including their peers, parents, experts and the community. Everyone can share their interest such as books, music, videos and pictures and have positive interaction with others virtually. Libraries can advertise their library programs and events inexpensively and effectively by posting information on their profile that other users can immediately read. It can also spark a lot of reading interest for others about featured books, news articles and website links.

Visit Saipan Southern High School Library on Facebook, become a fan and experience the social networking through the library.

Big Swap Meet benefits buyers, sellers, and GTC

This coming Saturday, Feb. 13, will mark the first *North Island Swap Meet* that will be held on the grounds of the GTC Elementary School in San Roque, Saipan. Set up starts at 5am and the sale itself will be from 7am to 11am.

Mark your calendars. Every two weeks on government payday Saturdays, the *North Island Swap Meet* will offer bargains to buyers plus cash to sellers and the booth rental proceeds go to the students via the PTA. Everybody wins!

For sellers, $25 gets you a 10x10 covered booth space and you can sell whatever you want: household stuff, farm products, handicrafts, sporting goods, furniture, clothes, cars, electronics…whatever. New or used, big or small, bring it all.

For buyers, come on over to the sale to take advantage of super bargains.

To reserve a booth or for more information, call 237-3121 or 664-3400. ***(PR)***

In wake of Oli, new storm threatens Cook Islands

HONOLULU (Pacific Islands Report/RNZI)—Following on the heels of supercyclone Oli, a new storm has formed northwest of French Polynesia which forecasters say will likely swing to the north of the Cook Islands.

Weather forecast website Tropical Storm Risk predicted that tropical storm 14 will build to a cyclone yesterday, Feb. 8, as it loops south, then west above the Cooks.

The cyclone, packing winds of up to 95 miles per hour, was expected to pass north of the Cooks on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Cyclone Oli swept across the islands of Tubuai and nearby Mataura in the Austral island group south of Tahiti on Friday with winds of up to 155 miles per hour. Early damage assessments indicate 200 homes were damaged, totaling $11 million in losses, and one person was swept out to sea.

French Polynesia president Gaston Tong Sang says much of the infrastructure has been destroyed and road repairs on Tubuai alone are likely to cost nearly US $6 million.

The French overseas territories minister, Marie-Luce Penchard, who was on an official visit to Tahiti and its islands when the cyclone struck, extended her stay by two days to inspect Tubuai and Rurutu island.

The minister has signaled more assistance for the territory, saying the withdrawal of French forces after the end of the nuclear weapons testing program may have been too substantial.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian elementary, high school PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents of Tinian Elementary School and Tinian High School that there will be a joint meeting of the Parents-Teachers & Students Association on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7pm at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria. Call the office of TES or THS if you have any questions. The Family Fun Day is slated for Saturday, Feb. 20, from 9am to 3pm. Join us for a day of fun, games, prizes and food! If you want to volunteer, call Rose Lazaro or Augusta Famaw.

Kagman High sets half-day session tomorrow

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, Kagman High School will have a half-day session due to report card distribution. Report card time is from 4pm to 6pm. Report cards will be distributed by the first period classroom teacher. ***(PR)***

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting today

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting today, Feb. 9, 2010 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

US, Japan air forces sets live-fire training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force and Japan Air Self Defense Force will conduct live-fire training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Feb. 9 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 10-13 from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW 10-IFB-006

CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-A
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER CM-NH-0031(014)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PAHSE II-A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available **on or after January 25, 2010** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated Ma 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118 ***is not available*** because its use is prohibited by Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A **mandatory** Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for February 11, 2010, 9:00 am, Chamorro Standard Time (CHST), at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan. After the per-bid there will be a site visit for Route 31, Phase II-A. DPW encourages prospective bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670)234-3547.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW10-IFB-006**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), February 25, 2010. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Inten to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), February 25, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located out the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 25, 2010, and must be received no later than March 8, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), March 11, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on March 02, 2010.

A bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the id. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check of Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce), as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority form the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is **two hundred forty (240)** working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One thousand four hundred fifty **($1,450.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FHWA Federal-Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MARTIN C. SABLAN
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement&Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Construction of a Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan
CUC - RFP 10 - 015

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. CUC had issued a prior bid (CUC IFB – 10 – 009), which was cancelled. The scope involves construction of a secondary containment with adequate roofing, based on the guidelines provided in the documents. The roofing structure and footing design compliant to the local codes and regulations and installation has now been made a part of the contractor's scope in order to elicit competitive proposals.

A mandatory site visit and pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize themselves with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract. A proposal guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or security bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI. A performance and payment bond of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer and prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 10 – 015 – Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. 0. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than**10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, February 18, 2010**. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most responsive to the solicitation. The contractor shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

The RFP package will be e-mailed upon request to all interested proposers by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time, **until February 10, 2010**. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

All requests/clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 p.m., local time, Friday, February 12, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager, via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation Managing Engineer, via email at venu@cucgov.net, with a copy to Becky Grimes at beckyg@cucgov.net for prompt response.

Selection procedure shall be in compliance with CUC's Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any-proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR	/s/ ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director
Date: January 27, 2010	Date: January 27, 2010	Date: January 28, 2010

Record number of students nominated to U.S. Service Academies for Class of 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has submitted his nominations to the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy for the upcoming school year. Twelve Northern Marianas students were nominated, a record number.

"It is great that we had so many students who met the high standards to qualify for nomination this year," said Sablan. "Because this is also the year that we have twice as many positions open at the service academies for Northern Mariana Islands students."

Sablan introduced legislation to increase the number of slots at the academies last February, a few weeks after being sworn into office. He was able to have his proposal added to the annual Defense Authorization Act, which the President signed into law on October 28, 2009, just in time for this year's nomination process.

"We have to increase educational opportunity for our young people today, if we want to have a prosperous Commonwealth in the future," Sablan said. "Increasing the openings for our Northern Marianas students at West Point, Annapolis, and Colorado Springs does just that. And it gives our youth the chance to serve their country in positions of leadership."

Students at the service academies obtain their college education for free and are commissioned as officers in their respective branch of the military after graduation.

The 12 congressional nominees from the Northern Mariana Islands are:

■ Matthew Anthony T. Aquino: The son of Daniel Aquino, Jr. and Joann Aquino, Matthew is currently attending Mount Carmel High School and will graduate this June. He was nominated to the Air Force Academy, the Military Academy and the Naval Academy.

■ Steven Paul Sonio Centino: The son of Marlene Centino, Steven is a senior at Saipan Southern High School. He was nominated to the Air Force Academy and the Military Academy.

■ Diana Choi: The daughter of Choi Young Sup and Bak Soon Hee, Diana is a senior at Marianas High School. She was nominated to the Air Force Academy and the Military Academy.

■ Grace Chung: The daughter of Hyun Joon Chung and Jung Me Park, Grace is currently a senior at the Northern Marianas Academy. She was nominated to the Air Force Academy.

■ Raena Pangelinan Cing: The daughter of Raynaldo Mendiola Cing and Priscilla Pangelinan Cing, Raena attends Tinian High School and will graduate this summer. She was nominated to the Air Force Academy, the Military Academy and the Naval Academy.

■ Federico Quintero Fernandez: The son of Fidel S. Fernandez and Josephine Q. Fernandez, Federico is a senior at Marianas Baptist Academy. He was nominated to the Naval Academy.

■ Min Joo Jung: The son of In Young Jung and Ae Soen Jung, Min graduated from Mount Carmel High School in June 2009. He is currently attending the New Mexico Military Institute, the preparatory school of the U.S. Military Academy in Roswell, NM. He was nominated by Kilili to the Merchant Marine Academy in October.

■ Denn M. Manglona: The son of Senator Paul Manglona and Lydia Manglona, Denn will graduate from Rota High School this June. He was nominated to the Military Academy.

■ Marvin Olopai Rabauliman: The son of Jose and Mercedes Rabauliman, Marvin graduated from Marianas High School last year. He has been nominated to the Air Force Academy.

■ John Mendiola Ramos: The son of Luise Mendiola Ramos, John is a senior at Tinian High School. He was nominated to the Military Academy and the Naval Academy.

■ Calvin Yang: The son of Youn Geun Yang and Sung Sook, Calvin is a senior at Mount Carmel High School. He was nominated to the Merchant Marine Academy and also recommended to the Coast Guard Academy.

■ John Yoon: The son of Tae Hyung Yoon and Kyung A. Hang, John is a senior at Marianas Baptist Academy and is expected to graduate this summer. He was nominated to the Air Force Academy, the Military Academy and the Naval Academy.

Congressional nomination is not the final step in acceptance to the one of the service academies. Now that they are nominated by their congressman, each applicant will be reviewed by the admission boards at the academies. The boards select the best candidates from among the 4,000 or so normally nominated. Of those, 1,500 will be offered admission.

Before Sablan's legislation passed, the Northern Marianas could have only one student at each academy at a time. Now there can be two.

Admission is granted to students who meet the service academies' high standards of academic achievement, leadership potential, physical conditioning, and moral character.

"I am confident that these nominees will succeed if granted appointment and will represent the Northern Marianas well as cadets or midshipmen in school and as officers in the armed services after graduation.

"I wish them all the best of luck in obtaining admission, completing their studies, and serving their country," said Sablan. ***(PR)***

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The persons featured in last week's photo have been identified as, from left, Calistro P. Tenorio, Joaquin C. Deleon Guerrero, Jesus S. Deleon Guerrero, Elias P. Sablan, Antonio Angailen, and Juan M. Ada at a meeting of the Chalan Kanoa Village Council in 1946. Identified by Luis Deleon Guerrero, Ben Barcinas, Gordon B. Salas, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Milagro Palacios, Rick Babauta, and Mike Naputi.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 8th birthday to Justin Dominic, who celebrates his birthday today. We hope you enjoy your special day. Greetings from your beautiful sisters Francine Monique, left, and Jasmine Chloe, right.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 9, 1999

Not so fast, auditor says on backing for Marubeni

A proposed legislation supporting the bid of Marubeni-Sithe on the 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan is premature and unnecessary in light of ongoing independent re-evaluation of all proposals submitted for the $120 million project, according to the Office of Public Auditor. Commenting on the measure under review by the legislature, Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte said the proposal is contrary to a decision by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to call off its agreement with the Japanese conglomerate and its U.S. partner. The OPA chief also questioned a 25-year full faith and credit backing by the CNMI government sought for the stalled project in view of the plan to privatize CUC in the next few years.

User fees may fall short of forecast

Revenues from user fees paid by local garment manufacturers are projected to shrink between 20 to 25 percent this year to reach some $29 million—about $12 million short of government estimates, according to industry leaders. The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association has tied the sharp drop in income to the financial turmoil in Asia and other market conditions in global clothing trade as well as the recent lawsuits filed against local garment firms. The latest projection is expected to alter again the CNMI government budget for fiscal year 1999 which initially anticipated more than $41 million in revenues from the user fees.

Feb. 9, 2000

Pepero launches gubernatorial bid

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan formally announced his bid in the 2001 gubernatorial elections in a hastily-planned gathering last night attended by more than 500 of his supporters, family and friends. But he did not disclose who will be his running mate, saying only that he will make an announcement before Easter this March. He also refused to reveal how many are under consideration and who are in the list. His intention to seek the highest post of the land came a day after Juan N. Babauta, CNMI's representative to the United States, and Rep. Diego T. Benavente, made a similar announcement in a bid to get the Republican Party's endorsement.

Court wraps up trial of ex-Tinian mayor

The jury trial on a cattle rustling case involving former Tinian Mayor James M. Mendiola ended yesterday after only a day of hearing testimonies from four witnesses summoned by the U.S. government with both the prosecution and defense agreeing to rest the case. Paul A. Lawlor, attorney for the accused, made a last-minute motion to dismiss the case against his client for lack of evidence, but was denied by Federal Court Judge Alex R. Munson. He and the lead counsel for the prosecution, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Wood, are expected to have their closing arguments this morning on the trial that began only last Monday with the jury selection.

Feb. 9, 2001

Initiative to amend Art. 12 restrictions offered

Rep. William S. Torres has introduced a Legislative Initiative that would extend the maximum term for land lease agreements from 55 to 99 years, in fresh attempts to revitalize major investment projects in the Northern Marianas. In an interview, Mr. Torres said the move is anticipated to generate interest from foreign investors, thereby, enhancing business opportunities in the Commonwealth. House Legislative Initiative 12-09 seeks to amend Article 12 Section 3 of the CNMI Constitution which currently guarantees that real estate properties can be leased by non-Northern Marianas descent by only up to 55 years.

Detailed cleanup plan on oil leak submitted

Officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Mobil Oil Marianas have submitted to the Division of Environmental Quality the proposed Site Investigation Plan to determine possible damage of the oil spill incident at the Saipan International Airport. Through Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, a Guam-based solid and hazardous waste management, CPA and Mobil Oil filed the detailed report on exploration and investigation process to detect probable water and soil contamination problems. According to APEC Environmental Scientist C. Thomas Polevich, the SIP was submitted Wednesday to DEQ office which was followed by an intensive meeting with representatives from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and DEQ officials.

Focus

AP

In this May 27, 2006 file photo, a man stands beside a hand-written sign on the barbed wire fence enclosing Henoko Beach in Nago, Japan.

Japan balks at $2 billion bill to host US troops

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

GINOWAN, Japan (AP)— In a country where land is a precious commodity, many U.S. bases in Japan boast golf courses, football fields and giant shopping malls whose food courts offer everything from Taco Bell to Subway and Starbucks.

They are the most visible point of grievance in a sharpening debate about the cost to Japan of supporting the 47,000 American service members here—about $2 billion a year. That's nearly a third of the total, and about three times what Germany pays to host U.S. forces on its soil.

But facing economic woes and seeking a more equal relationship with the U.S., Japan's new reformist government is questioning whether it should spend so much on U.S. troops—a topic that was taboo under the pro-Washington administrations that governed Japan for most of the post-World War II era.

The scrutiny in Japan, Washington's deep-pocketed ally and most important strategic partner in Asia, comes at a bad time for the U.S., whose defense budget is already spread thin in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Japanese call their share a "kindness budget," implying the U.S. is getting a free ride, and its opponents say it is rife with waste. The opposition also reflects a long-standing feeling, particularly on the left, that the U.S. is taking its security alliance with Japan too much for granted.

The alliance has come under intense pressure since Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama took office last September. He says the alliance remains a "keystone" of Japanese policy, but he wants to reevaluate it.

"This will be a very important year for our relationship," he said last month.

The flash point of the debate is the southern island of Okinawa, where most of the nearly 100 U.S. facilities in Japan are located.

Futenma airfield, where several thousand Marines are stationed, was to have been moved from the town of Ginowan to Nago, in a less crowded part of the island. But that plan came into doubt last month after Nago elected a mayor who opposes having the base.

At the same time, the U.S. is shifting about 8,000 troops from Okinawa to the U.S. territory of Guam and expects Japan to pay an estimated $6 billion of the moving costs.

The frustrations run deep in cramped Ginowan. Local media regularly run images of the golf course at nearby Kadena Air Base and criticize the forces relentlessly whenever a service member is involved in a local crime.

"When people who live in crowded areas in small houses drive by and see the situation on the bases, some feel angry," said Hideki Toma, an official dealing with the bases on Okinawa.

"This is a bigger issue than the golf courses and free highway passes," Toma said. "It goes back to the fact that Okinawa was occupied after World War II and why the bases have to be here in the first place."

AP

This Jan. 30, 2010 file photo shows demonstrators holding up signs written in Japanese reading: "We don't need Futenma base," in red, and "We refuse new Henoko base," in blue, as some 6,000 people gather at a rally protesting against Futenma Marine Corp Air Station on the southern island of Okinawa, in Tokyo.

That sentiment is widely shared, and underscores a feeling that the bases should be spread out more evenly among Japan's main islands and Okinawa. Okinawa was one of the bloodiest battlefields of World War II, and Okinawans feel that the continued U.S. presence places an uneven burden on them, though the argument that all U.S. forces should leave Japan is not popular.

American officials say the deployment in Japan of troops, fighter jets and the only nuclear-powered aircraft carrier based outside the U.S. has enabled Japan to hold down its own defense costs in line with its pacifist constitution.

They say the U.S. presence also prevents an arms race in east Asia, acts as a deterrent against North Korea, and counters the rise of China.

Facilities such as on-base golf courses represent a small fraction of the sum U.S. taxpayers chip in for the defense of Japan—about $3.9 billion a year, according to a U.S. State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the details.

"There is no difference in the facilities that our forces have here than they have anywhere else in the world, including the United States," Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, the commander of the U.S Army's Pacific Forces, told The Associated Press. "But we cannot view forces that are out here simply as Japan. They are in Asia; they are available for responsive deployment."

Japan covers much of the cost for supporting American troops, including utilities, maintenance and physical upgrades plus the wages of tens of thousands of Japanese civilians working on the bases.

Previous governments were too willing to pay because they wanted to maintain a special relationship with the United States, said Eiichi Hoshino, professor of international relations at the University of the Ryukyus.

"Japan had kept paying the kindness budget simply because it is the one that wanted the U.S. forces to stay," he said. "If the United States wants to stay here at any cost, it should be the one who is paying."

Tokyo's share rose sharply until 2001 but has since decreased steadily, largely because of the shrinking economy and the objections of Hatoyama's Democratic Party when it was in the opposition. Costs have been cut, in part, by reducing utilities payments and the salaries and number of Japanese base employees, a process members of Hatoyama's party want to accelerate.

"It's not a sacred cow, and we should cut deeper," Mizuho Fukushima, the head of one of Japan's three coalition parties in the Cabinet, said after a budget review session in late November.

AP writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and AP National Security Writer Robert Burns in Washington, D.C. contributed to this report.

Opinion

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

End of the road for Mars rover

Oh mighty Spirit, you soared over a mountain as tall as the Statue of Liberty and outlived your predicted demise by five years and nine months. You sent reams of useful data and illuminating images back to us Earthlings while you chugged sturdily through plains and plateaus, enduring the harshest of winters and cruelest of summers on Mars.

But now, you're stuck in a sand pit. A lowly outcome for a plucky contraption that looks a bit like the loveable waste-collecting robot WALL-E. While your brother rover Opportunity continues sallying forth, you will remain mired, still relaying back intriguing information on the mysterious Red Planet.

Your handlers at NASA have striven mightily to free you, but they tossed in the towel in January. But NASA's got nothing to be ashamed of in this space exploration endeavor. The president's NASA budget proposal may deal Florida a blow—a topic to discuss another day. Today is your day, Spirit. You and Opportunity are two of the agency's great achievements.

Parachuted to opposite ends of the Mars equator in 2004, you two rovers were expected to last all of three months. Instead, here you are six years later—alive and well, if, in your case, no longer mobile.

Thanks to you we now know that water once flowed on the Martian surface. By drilling into rocks and peeking into craters the two of you have given us a clearer picture of what our extraterrestrial neighbor is like.

We salute you, Spirit, and your brother, Opportunity. Your intrepid exploration and amazing endurance are tributes to the ingenuity of your creators and the faith of the taxpayers who underwrote your fantastic journey.

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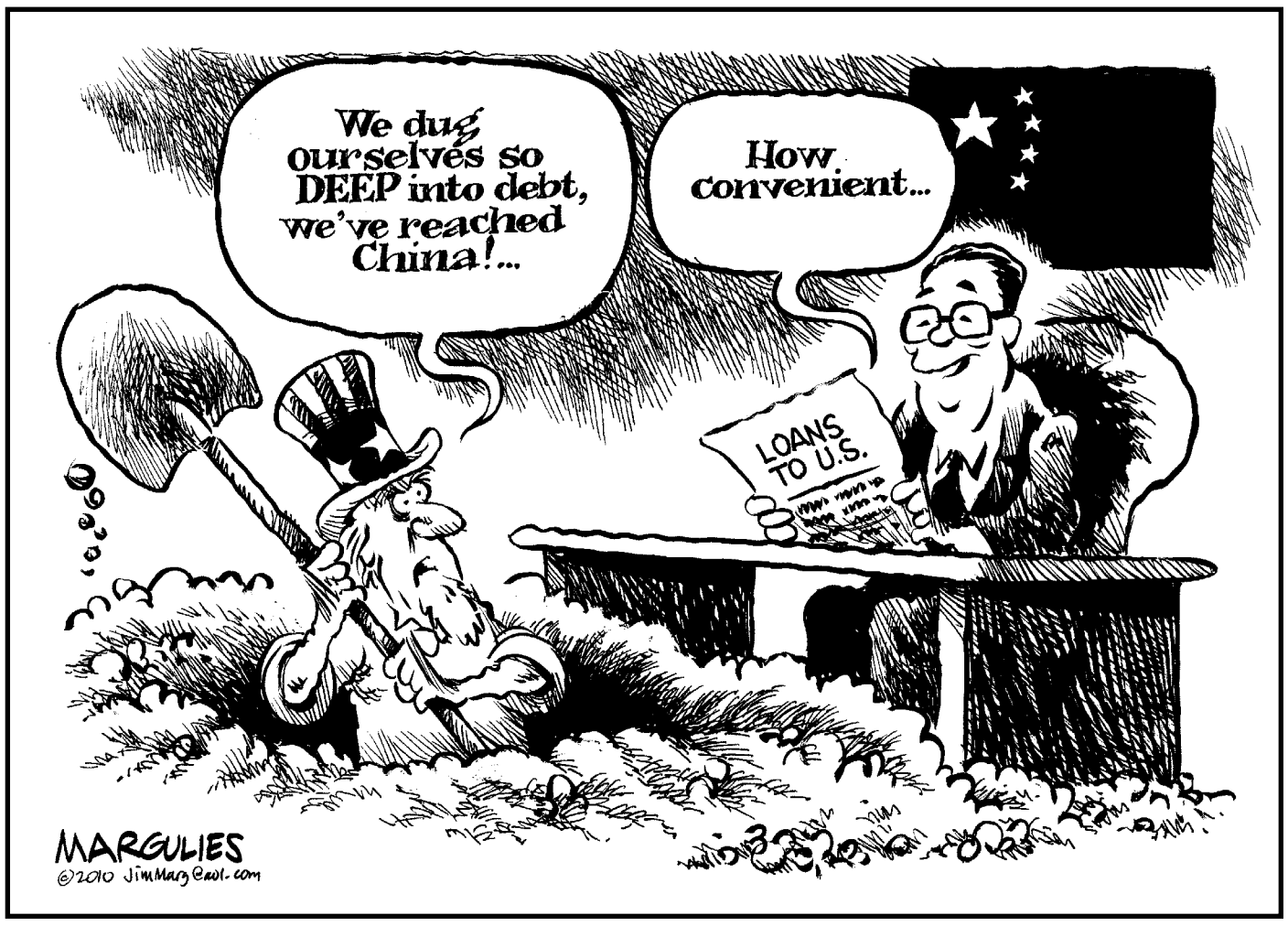

Thoughts on development potential and related economic issues

■ **Starting the long road back to economic recovery**

Second in a five-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

Article XII has had no small impact on the decision of some investors to consider the NMI as a profitable place to invest or not. I know from my experience that some investors with whom I have worked have walked away when informed they cannot own land in fee simple. I will not make a judgment on whether or not the provision on land alienation should be "dumped" or not. I feel that is entirely a decision for the indigenous people as to whether they choose to make the trade-off or not. Make no mistake about it, most investors want the benefit of the appreciated value that comes with ownership in fee simple.

For those interested in this important issue the NMI Council for the Humanities sponsored the program "We the People" under a federal grant initiative. My thoughts from an economist's perspective as well as that of a long time resident and a proponent of private enterprise may be viewed in the Council's document.

I remember the avalanche of adverse publicity in the early '90s surrounding the CNMI court's decision relative to Article XII that began to appear in the press throughout Asia and North America under headlines such as: Indian Givers?, *Guam Business News* (July,'91); Northern Marianas, Land Alienation, *Guam Business Almanac* ('92); Paradise Postponed, *Guam Business News* (July, '92); Saipan: Land of Disenchantment, *Building Industry* (May '93); Gambling, Gangs and the Sleepy Marianas, *Far East Economic Review* (July 15, '93); CNMI: Paradise for Gangsters, Lawyers, *Pacific Daily News* (Aug. 16, '93); Asian Developers Bypassing Saipan, *Marianas Variety* (Aug. 23, '93), and other negative banners.

The unfavorable publicity generated by confusion over Article XII probably still lingers in the minds of many potential foreign investors and could be partially overcome by placing appropriate, well designed, positive advertising announcements in the major news media throughout Asia and elsewhere.

The fact that the issues that resulted in such adverse press comments have now been largely mitigated as a result of Public Law 8-32 ('93) is well and good news, but has never been publicized in the media outside the CNMI to my knowledge. There's nothing about it on the Internet that I can find.

Foreign investment has become very cautious and frequently adopts a "wait and see" attitude before making an investment commitment. When management reviews the business potential of a new area, no factor escapes analysis, most of all the so called "business climate" and the experience of other foreign investors in the area.

Hopefully, the island's existing investment laws and regulations will soon be under review to streamline and make the area more "investor friendly."

To continue with my evaluation—stop fighting the federal government and be more cooperative; organize a "community corporation", sell stock to local people and purchase some of the "walk away" assets that are available from foreign investors who plan to bail out. More local people need to be participants in the islands' economic development process.

Explore the possibility of converting oil generators to coal or, as Dr. Tom Arkle has suggested, explore the possible use of small atomic power plants (an area I know nothing about); work to bring about an automobile ferry to serve the Saipan-Guam route (more about this later); encourage condominiums for retirees after solving the issue of providing adequate health and medical care by qualified foreign physicians who are necessary if only for their language ability.

After providing reliable water and power, get tough on crime; invest in education; turn the task of encouraging foreign investment over to a committee of the Chamber with the government providing the group with grant of funds sufficient to do the job while the administration and the Legislature get out of the way and leave the committee alone to do its work; relax or modify many of the investment-constraining laws and regulations so as to untie the hands of developers and investors and free up their entrepreneurial, risk-taking creativity. Adopt "business friendly" environmental regulations and strengthen the Free Trade Zone concept.

These are not short-term solutions—there are none. Consider five years or more will be necessary to do the job. Now is the time to start. You know what is said about a journey of a thousand miles.

To be continued.

Editor's Note: With more than four decades of international experience as an economist and foreign investment advisor for development banks and finance institutions in North Africa, the Bahamas, Thailand's Board of Investment and the Inter-American Development Bank, the author offers a perspective and point of view for those who want to encourage foreign investment.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Death in the family

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

A very large percentage of prospective immigrants to the U.S. rely on family members who are already U.S. citizens (USCs) or lawful permanent residents (LPRs) to petition for them. Those who are classified as immediate relatives of USCs—parents, spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21—have a relatively short wait until their applications are processed. Others may have to wait decades: The Department of State's March 2010 Visa Bulletin (http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_4659.html) reveals that the government is currently processing applications with the following priority dates (that is, filing dates) for Philippine citizens, who currently have among the world's longest waits: Adult unmarried children of USCs, March 1, 1994; spouse and children of LPRs, April 1, 2006; adult unmarried children of LPRs, Aug. 22, 1998; married sons and daughters of USCs, March 1, 1992; and brothers and sisters of adult citizens, Sept. 1, 1987.

We regularly see people who are beneficiaries of a petition in one of these ultra-slow categories, who have waited so long that their own children, USCs by birth in the CNMI, are now old enough to sponsor them as immediate relatives instead of waiting any longer. We also often see people who have no option but to continue waiting, who only want to know, "how much longer?"

But life is fragile and uncertain. It is not uncommon for a sponsor to pass away before the immigrant petition is processed—and what is the beneficiary to do then? Today we will look at widows and widowers, who now are treated differently than other applicants, and humanitarian reinstatement for beneficiaries of family-based petitions in general.

Surviving Spouses: Widows & Widowers

A harsh general rule

For many years the general rule has been that death of the petitioning USC results in automatic revocation of the Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative), and ends the beneficiary's eligibility. There were special rules for surviving spouses, which were fairly well fixed: If the USC spouse died after two years of marriage, then the petition was not revoked, and could be processed. Also, if the death occurred after two years of marriage but no petition was pending, then within two years afterward the surviving spouse could (and still can) file Form I-360, which is a form used for various groups entitled to self-petition for green cards. And if a petition was pending, and an interview had been held, the application could be processed even though the marriage lasted less than two years before the USC spouse died.

Bruce had a heartbreaking case a number of years ago: USC husband and alien wife lived together for many years in the wife's home country, but because of pressure from her family did not marry until they moved to Saipan. They immediately applied for green cards for the wife and her daughter, who had never known another father besides her stepfather. He passed away suddenly, only a couple of weeks before their scheduled interview date. Under the existing rule at that time, because the interview had not yet been held, the petition could not be processed. The surviving wife was extremely upset, not so much because she and her daughter could not now become LPRs, but because she could not honor her husband's wishes, and could not remain where he was buried.

Relief for some

Today that case would have turned out differently. Recent litigation resulted in rulings in some parts of the U.S. that required that such pending applications be processed. And on Oct. 28, 2009, President Obama signed into law an amendment to the Immigration & Nationality Act (INA), which provides that the length of the marriage is no longer relevant, so long as the parties were not separated at the time the USC spouse died, and the surviving spouse has not remarried.

Under the INA amendment and a "guidance" memorandum published by USCIS on Dec. 2, 2009, the surviving spouse has until Oct. 28, 2011, to file any necessary applications. In most cases, the I-130 petition will be automatically reopened, and then adjudicated as a widow(er)'s self-petition. For the surviving spouse's qualifying children, USCIS will consider the child's age at the time the original petition was filed and, if the child was under age 21, will adjudicate as if the child remains under 21.

But not for all

This is important news to many CNMI surviving spouses, but for many who might otherwise benefit, the law of unintended consequences has once again reared its ugly head. The new guidance provides that it applies "to any alien whose spouse died before Oct. 28, 2009, and who had a Form I-130 pending on Oct. 28, 2009. If no Form I-130 was pending, then an alien whose spouse died before Oct. 28, 2009, *and before the second anniversary of their marriage*, may file a visa petition" so long as the survivor has not remarried, and files before Oct. 28, 2011.

That is, if your spouse died before Oct. 28, 2009, after your second marriage anniversary, and without any Form I-130 pending, you are not covered by the new amendment. We do not believe the amendment was intended to discriminate against surviving spouses of a marriage that lasted more than two years in this fashion, and we will monitor and report any changes in policy.

In the meantime, some good news is better than none, and we hope CNMI residents who qualify will take advantage of this new law and USCIS policy. The Dec. 2 guidance memo may be found at www.uscis.gov by typing "additional guidance regarding surviving spouses" into the search window.

There are also special benefits for surviving spouses of active U.S. military personnel, which we will discuss in a later column.

Humanitarian reinstatement

What about everyone else? If you are a married son or daughter, an adult unmarried son or daughter, or a brother or sister of a USC or LPR who has filed a Form I-130 for you, and your petitioner passes away, what can you do? If the I-130 has not yet been approved, that is the end of it. With the exception of surviving spouses, a Form I-130 cannot be approved after the petitioner dies. But if the I-130 was approved before the petitioner's death, you can apply for humanitarian reinstatement under the Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2002.

How do you apply?

Provide proof of the petitioner's death, along with a written request that the petition be reinstated, to the USCIS office where the original Form I-130 was first filed. Include a copy of the form I-130

See DEATH on Page 13

Response to former garment workers

Editor's Note: Due to its length, this letter is being published in two parts. The first part was published in the Feb. 9, 2010, edition of the Saipan Tribune.

By TIMOTHY BELLAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Timothy Bellas is chairman of the Garment Workers Trust Fund and former chairman of the Garment Oversight Board.

No further distribution was authorized

At this point, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, SA, there were no further payments to be made to any of the class members or any other garment workers. However, the GOB went to Judge Munson and requested that he allow the creation of a temporary trust fund. The main reason for this request was because, at that time, most of the garment factories were closed or closing and there was a possibility that many garment workers might be stranded on Saipan without a ticket to get home. Therefore, it was pointed out to the court that since one of the dominant themes of the SA was repatriation of garment workers, perhaps we should delay the final distribution of the money to charity for one year, to see if we could help any of workers get home.

The condition for such funding was that, none of those parties who are normally responsible to pay for this expense—the employer, the bonding company or the CNMI government—was unable to repatriate them. In addition, we asked for the limited ability to assist some workers if there were any extraordinary hardship cases. Once again, Judge Munson found this to be a reasonable request and granted it. This is how and for what purpose this trust fund was created. There is nothing in the SA that states that the funds remaining after the second distribution belong to or are to be distributed to the class members or any other garment workers.

Use of the trust funds

Repatriation of workers. During this one-year period, the trust funds were used to repatriate 65 workers back to their countries of hire, by providing them with one-way airline tickets and more recently, by giving them an additional $100 for incidental travel expenses. The trustees published an ad in the local papers stating that they would receive applications for assistance until Aug. 15, 2009. However, in several articles published in the media it was explained that this meant hardship requests and that the trustees were not going to donate to persons who simply requested the funds because the economy was bad. The trustees met in September 2009 and reviewed the applications that were submitted. The trustees determined that only the following donations would make:

- **Continuing repatriation of workers.** The trustees agreed to continue repatriation of workers as long as any funds remain. In addition, the trustees approved a $100 payment for travel expense to those who were being repatriated.
- **Funding for medical conditions.** Some of the funds were used for the medical evacuation of a seriously ill former garment worker to the Philippines. Some Chinese workers complained that the trustees were favoring garment workers from Philippines over them because we had not medically evacuated any workers to China. (The trustees never received any request for medical evacuation of any person to China.) An additional amount of $10,000 was donated to workers who substantiated medical conditions, which the trustees determined required one time limited funding.
- **Donations to workers with pending labor awards.** Funds were also spent to donate $350 to $215 workers whose names were submitted by the CNMI Labor Department and U.S. Ombudsman's office to the trustees. The amount paid to these workers was not meant to compensate them for their unpaid wages; it was merely a donation based on the request from the government agencies and the CNMI governor.

Many workers came to complain that they also had claims for wages but did not get a check. The trustees had no control over who was placed on the lists provided by the government agencies. The workers were instructed to seek out an explanation from those who prepared the lists, as we could provide no explanation for why their name might have been left off the list.

- **Charitable donations.** The trustees solicited requests from the community for donations from the trust funds. After the first solicitation, a second ad was published, at the instruction of the court. Pursuant to the second ad 18 responses were received. Of those 18, the trustees determined that only 14 should receive donations. The bulk of the donations went to agencies, which do not have any restrictions on the availability of their services and could conceivably be providing such services to garment workers as well as other members of this community. The trustees gave initial priority to whether an organization could have some impact on or potential for providing some services to garment workers but not exclusively to them. For example, one of the largest amounts donated was to the Red Cross. A board member of that organization informed me that the CNMI Red Cross provided $35,000 in food and temporary shelter items to garment workers who were victims of a garment factory barracks fire. In another garment factory fire, the Red Cross donated an additional $12,000 for similar items.

Karidat received the largest contribution and it has a worker assistance program to help workers deal with labor permitting issues. They also provide a shelter for victims of abuse, which is not limited to any particular segment of the population. Micronesian Legal Service Corp. provides legal services to all persons who cannot afford them. Saipan Southern High School received a donation to assist the students going to Carnegie Hall. The principal of that school advised me when he picked up the check that some of the students who are going to New York are the children of former garment workers. The donation to the Northern Marianas Judicial Historical Society is to fund a program that purchases school supplies for children whose parents cannot afford to buy those supplies when school opens in September. Again, a program that is not limited to any particular segment of the community.

Expenses and fees

There have been some comments that the expenses and fees charged

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The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲81	▼73
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼73

Around The Globe

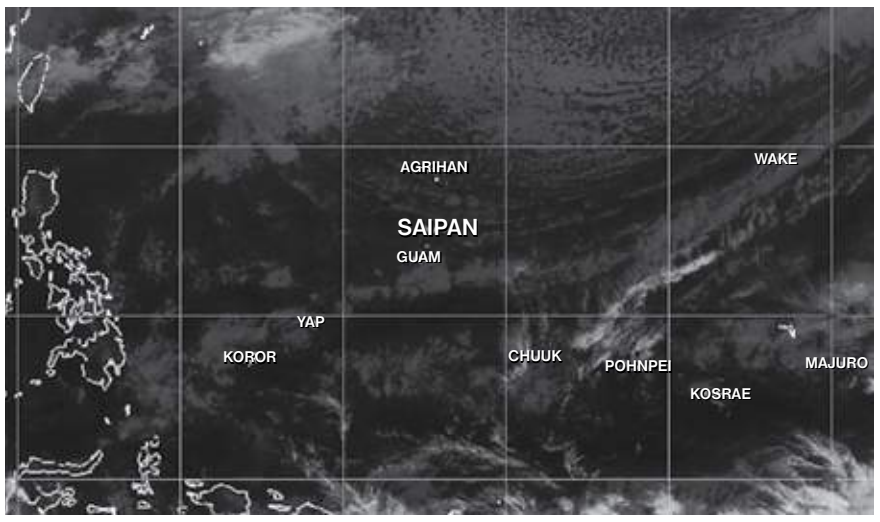
Auckland	Showers	▲72	▼62
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲32	▼23
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲77	▼68
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼32
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Manila	Sunny	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼67
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼62
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲34	▼26
Osaka	Showers	▲60	▼46
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲34	▼25
Pusan	Dreary	▲53	▼47
Rome	Showers	▲51	▼40
Salem	Cloudy	▲49	▼34
San Francisco	Rain	▲56	▼44
Seoul	Cloudy	▲43	▼30
Tokyo	Showers	▲54	▼46
Washington, DC	Snow	▲35	▼26

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
3:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front reaches westward from near Iwo To island at 24N142E to beyond 130E at 25N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain associated with this boundary are present over the northwest corner of the discussion area or north of a line from 25N143E to 21N139E to 18N130E. A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N175E to 15N156E then continues as a shear line across Guam at 13N145E to end at 12N136E. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 180 miles northwest of the cold front. Broken clouds with scattered showers are seen along and up to 170 miles northwest of the shear line. A shear line fragment runs southwestward from south of Guam at 10N145E through south of Yap at 8N139E to end at 4N130E. Patchy clouds with light rain are evident along and up to 200 miles northwest of this fragment including Yap and Koror. Another shear line fragment stretches southwestward from near Enewetak atoll at 12N163E to west of Pohnpei at 7N156E and continues westward to end at 5N142E. Similar weather is occurring along and up to 280 miles north of this second fragment including Chuuk. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers over Kwajalein but just north of Majuro between 7N and 11N from 166E to 180 and east of Tarawa and Butaritari atolls between the equator and 5N from 174E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:53 AM	2:16 PM
Wednesday	3:43 AM	3:08 PM
Thursday	4:30 AM	4:00 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	4:50 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	5:39 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Basta! Let's do what we gotta do

Ay adai CNMI colleagues, enough talking about each other, stop the anger within, and let peace prevail. Jesus said, "Whoever among you does not have sin may cast the first stone." I love these words.

My fellow CNMI citizens, at the time of hardship if we start judging each other and keep saying bad things about each other, this work would never end. But if we stop and think, look back at all the mistakes, and make a plan to not repeat it, we can move on.

Lawmakers, you said, "Education first." Okay, survey all government employees and check how many need trainings and education lai, because our government is at risk of take over. We need competent, dependable, reliable employees to join forces and make ends meet.

Regulatory agencies, regulate our laws and enforce them. Go out and educate our community about our CNMI laws. *Ma lachai i guina ha ta.* They finish our resources *lai. Man yomok i man abento.* The greedy get fatter if you don't stop them.

Service providers, provide *lai* the service to our people, because a lot out there needs your services.

Employers, you say that majority of local residents are not reliable, dependable and competent. How come? Because *nai*, you don't provide training first and tell them what you want them to do. Use the labor fee to hire outsiders to pay for local scholarship, or trainings for their job, so that we can work for you.

And so on...peace to all!

Winnie Atalig
Tinian

DEATH

From Page 11

approval notice.

Provide a binding affidavit of support executed by an alternate sponsor, plus proof of your relationship to the substitute sponsor. The alternate sponsor must be your spouse, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sibling, child (at least 18 years old), adult son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparent, grandchild or legal guardian.

State why you believe reinstatement is appropriate in your case.

What factors are considered?

The following seven factors have been considered by USCIS, but this list is probably not exclusive:

- Disruption of an established family unit;
- Hardship to USCs or LPRs;
- Elderly or ill beneficiary;
- Beneficiary with lengthy U.S. residence;
- Beneficiary has no home to which to return;
- Undue delay by government in processing petition and visa; and
- Beneficiary has strong family ties in the U.S.

(With thanks to 2008 American Immigration Lawyers Association publication, *Humanitarian Reinstatement: How to Resurrect a Dead I-130.*)

What are your chances?

Keep in mind that humanitarian reinstatement is discretionary, and is not granted in most cases. The standard used by USCIS is a determination "that for humanitarian reasons revocation is inappropriate." The regulations make it clear that humanitarian reinstatement is exceptional relief. If reinstatement is denied, there is no appeal. It is the course to follow when you have no other choice.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

RESPONSE

From Page 11

to the trust were inappropriate. The only response that needs to be made to that is that all fees, expenses and monies donated were placed in front of the U.S. District Court. With the exception of wages and withholding taxes, which cannot be delayed for three months, most of the other expenses and attorney's fees were submitted to the U.S. District Court for its review and approval before they were paid. Furthermore, each time a paper is filed with the court, it is electronically served on all the lawyers who were involved in the class action lawsuit on both sides and there has never been a single objection to the expenses or fees requested.

Conclusion

Inordinate delay. This case was settled in 2003, which was also the year the funds were paid. The administration and payment of these funds, as noted by Judge Munson, has been a frequently reported news item in the local media. None of the activities of the GOB or the trustees have been carried out in secret. The announcement that the residual funds would go to charity was made many months ago. In fact, the order approving the distribution was entered on Jan. 15, 2010, yet the funds were not immediately distributed. Instead the distribution was delayed for 13 days, until Jan. 28.

Those who are dissatisfied with the final distribution chose to wait until the very day of the distribution of the money to file something in court, knowing there was already a court order directing that the money be disbursed.

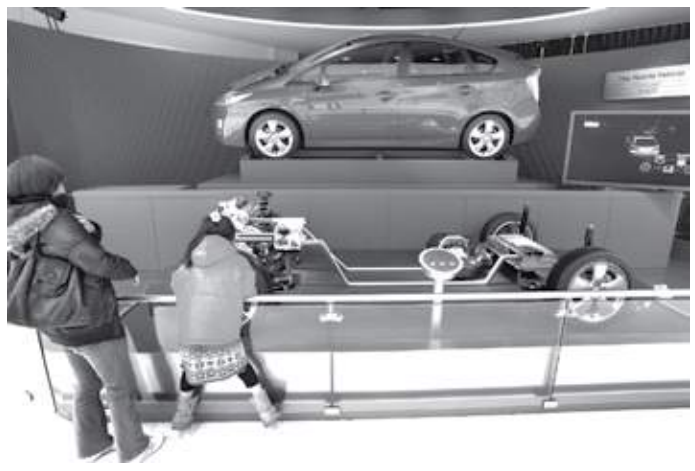
Impracticality of a third distribution. Aside from the lack of any timely action, there is also no legal basis within the SA for a third general distribution of the funds to class members or other garment workers. If the remaining money were to be distributed generally to former garment workers, on what eligibility basis would the distribution be made? How could the trustees make a general distribution of funds to all garment workers and yet exclude those garment workers who were actual class members? If the distribution scheme within the SA were used as a guideline, it provides that only those persons who received a prior distribution would receive another one. Therefore, the trustees would have to restart the process of making out and mailing thousands of checks to the class members. If the two prior distributions have taught us anything, it is that there would still be another round of checks that would not be cashed, and we would have to start the process all over again.

Therefore, as one can see this would mean that the process would extend well into the future. Seven years have passed since the settlement and since the case was closed. Understandably, the court was not receptive to any further delays, which would essentially reset the case back to the beginning of another lengthy distribution process. The trustees did what they believed was appropriate under these competing circumstances and the U.S. District Court has firmed their decision.

Business

Toyota loses some luster in hometown over recalls

TOYOTA, Japan (AP)—Even in its hometown, the great automaker has lost some of its mystique.



AP

In this photo taken Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, Toyota Motor Corp.'s new Prius hybrid model, which is called 2010 Prius in the U.S., is displayed at a museum in Toyota, central Japan. Even in its hometown, the great automaker has lost some of its mystique.

Rising out of the barren winter rice fields of central Japan, this city of 400,000 people is probably the most Toyota-friendly place on the planet. Renamed after the company 51 years ago, it hosts the corporate headquarters as well as enormous factories and is beholden to the automaker for tens of thousands of jobs and the bulk of its tax income.

Residents say they, like the rest of the world, were surprised by the safety problems that have led to a mass recall of Toyota vehicles. But it was the company's response that was more shocking - the global icon came across as dithering and unprepared.

"Maybe Toyota isn't any different from ordinary companies," said Akari Mizunaga, who works at a local trading company which depends on Toyota for much of its business. She spoke while killing time at a cafe before an English lesson.

As the company grew in the 1930s from its roots as a producer of mechanical looms, it has transformed the formerly rural town into a thriving municipality. Toyota dealerships are strung along the city's main street, and the automaker's curly T logo is everywhere—on cars, signs and buildings.

"You can't really separate the town from the company," said Hideki Nagata, who works independently in auto repair. "And now there is this sense of—are we OK?"

None of the people interviewed in Toyota said they would hesitate to buy one of the company's vehicles in the future, and several said they thought the automaker would now work harder to ensure quality. But there was a palpable disappointment in the way it had handled the recent safety concerns, almost as if let down by a relative.

Akio Toyoda, who took over the company in June, is a grandson of Toyota's founder and was seen as a charismatic choice that would lead it back from deep losses incurred during the global economic slump.

But the company's leader kept a low profile after Toyota announced a recall last month to fix defective gas pedals in a number of its mainline models that could cause sudden acceleration. Together with earlier recalls, that has covered over 7 million cars in the U.S., Europe and China.

Toyoda was briefly cornered for an interview by a Japanese TV crew a week later in Switzerland, then finally gave a press conference on Friday, which was widely panned by Japanese media as belated and unconvincing.

Obama invites GOP leaders to health care talk

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the first major step to revive his health care agenda after his party's loss of a filibuster-proof Senate majority, President Barack Obama on Sunday invited Republican and Democratic leaders to discuss possible compromises in a televised gathering later this month.

Obama's move came amid widespread complaints that efforts so far by him and his Democratic allies in Congress have been too partisan and secretive.

The Feb. 25 meeting's prospects for success are far from clear. GOP leaders demanded Sunday that Democrats start from scratch, and White House aides said Obama had no plans to do so.

"If we are to reach a bipartisan consensus, the White House can start by shelving the current health spending bill," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio also threw some jabs while accepting Obama's invitation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

CIT names ex-Merrill CEO Thain as chairman, CEO

NEW YORK (AP)—CIT Group said Sunday it has chosen former Merrill Lynch CEO John Thain to lead the company as chairman and CEO as the commercial lender continues to restructure its business following a brief stay in bankruptcy protection last year. CIT Group Inc., one of the nation's largest lenders to small and mid-sized businesses, said Thain will take the helm immediately. He replaces acting interim CEO Peter J. Tobin, who will remain on CIT's board. Tobin had stepped in while CIT searched for a permanent replacement for Jeffrey Peek, who retired as chairman and CEO on Jan. 15. Thain, 54, served as chairman and CEO of Merrill Lynch until its sale to Bank of America was completed in January 2009. He resigned under pressure from the combined company after reports he rushed out billions in bonuses to Merrill employees in his final days as CEO, while the brokerage was suffering huge losses and just before Bank of America took it over.

Oil near $72 amid US cold snap, Iran tensions

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose near to $72 a barrel Monday in Asia after hitting a two-month low last week, boosted by tensions over Iran's nuclear program and persistently cold weather in the U.S. northeast. Benchmark crude for March delivery was up 56 cents at $71.75 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged $1.95 to settle at $71.19 on Friday. Oil prices fell sharply late last week as concerns over swelling debt levels in Greece, Portugal and Spain and high unemployment in the U.S. cast doubt over the global economic recovery.

Asian stocks lower amid weak recovery fears

SHANGHAI (AP)—Asian stock markets extended their slide Monday, after Wall Street notched its fourth straight weekly drop, amid worries over risks from debt troubles in Europe. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 closed at a nearly two-month low, falling 1.1 percent, or 105.27 points, to 9,951.82 as exporters were hit by a stronger yen, which can erode their overseas profits. It was its lowest close since Dec. 10, when the Nikkei ended at 9,862.82. Oil prices rose modestly while the dollar gained against the euro.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Mo. contractor charged in bungled NJ kidnapping

NEVADA, Mo. (AP)—Court documents allege kidnappers abducted a New Jersey resident thinking he was another man with the same name in a bungled effort to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars on behalf of a Missouri contractor. Documents filed in Vernon County Circuit Court Thursday say 55-year-old Roy A. Slates, who allegedly sought assistance in retrieving $400,000 he lost in a Utah construction project, has been charged with concealing a felony and hindering prosecution. Three other men are charged with kidnapping Jeffrey Muller. The documents state Slates lost the money in a deal with a different man named Jeffrey Muller. Slates was released Thursday after posting $5,000 bond. Online court records do not name an attorney for Slates, and his number is not listed.

Winning Powerball ticket bought in North Carolina

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A winning Powerball ticket worth more than $140 million was sold in western North Carolina. The North Carolina Education Lottery announced Sunday that the winning ticket from Saturday night's Powerball drawing was sold in Asheville. Spokeswoman Pamela Walker says the ticket was sold at a Wilco Hess convenience store. The winning numbers were 14, 22, 52, 54, 59, with the Powerball 4. The ticket was worth a $141.4 million annuity or $69.6 million in cash, minus federal and state withholdings, if the winner elects to take the lump sum. It's the third time North Carolina has had a winner in the Powerball drawing since the state established a lottery on May 30, 2006.

Mom charged in son's death made cult abuse claims

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman charged in her 8-year-old son's death in a New York City luxury hotel was once detained by police in Wyoming after claiming the boy was being molested by devil worshippers. Cheyenne Detective Tom Hood told the New York Post that Gigi Jordan wrote letters to a sex crimes investigator more than two years ago saying her autistic son was being abused by a cult. Hood says Wyoming officials briefly detained Jordan for a psychiatric evaluation. An examination of the boy showed no signs of abuse. The boy was found dead Friday. Police say it appears he died of a drug overdose in a murder-suicide attempt. Jordan's ex-husband says he's shocked by the accusations. He says she appeared to be a devoted mother. The district attorney's office doesn't know whether Jordan has a lawyer.

'Historic' snow strands countless in Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON(AP)—Planes were grounded, trains stood still and Greyhound buses weren't rolling in the Mid-Atlantic region on Sunday, leaving stranded travelers wondering when they'll be able to escape the icy, gray mess created by a major snowstorm.

Hundreds of thousands of homes were without power with temperatures below freezing all day, and utilities warned it could be days before electricity is restored to everyone. Plows had scraped down to bare pavement on some main thoroughfares while not touching streets in other areas buried by 2 feet or more.

For many in the nation's capital, meanwhile, Monday will be another day to dig out. Federal agencies that employ 230,000 will be closed, and many school districts across the region were giving students a snow day. For stranded out-of-towners, however, the thought of extending the weekend by a day wasn't much to smile about.

Joel Jones of Durham, N.C., said he was on a bus from Baltimore on Friday. When he arrived in Washington, the rest of the trip was canceled. He walked to Union Station to get a train, where he has remained, sleeping on chairs.

AP

People walk through a steady snowfall during a winter storm in Ellicott City, Md., Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010.

"I'm starting to worry because I take insulin," said the 41-year-old, who has diabetes. "I got enough for like one more shot, so I have enough until tomorrow. Hopefully, I'll get on the bus in the morning."

The National Weather Service called the storm "historic" and reported a foot of snow in parts of Ohio and 2 feet or more in Washington, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Parts of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia got closer to 3 feet.

Many roads reopened but officials continued to warn residents that highways were still icy, a remnant from the storm President Barack Obama called "Snowmageddon."

In Washington, the sun was finally shining Sunday and the sounds of shovels could be heard on streets. In contrast to Saturday, when people were frolicking on the barren streets, thoughts turned Sunday to cleanup.

The snow snapped tree limbs onto power lines, and several roofs collapsed under the weight.

Making matters worse, the weather service issued a storm watch for the Washington area Tuesday, saying there was potential for another 5 inches or more of snow. Forecasters expect highs in the low- to mid-30s for the next few days, though sunshine on Monday should help melt some of the snow, said meteorologist Bryan Jackson.

Some people without electricity worried whether the power would return in time for Sunday night's Super Bowl kickoff—though it was an afterthought for others just trying to stay warm.

Julia Nickles-Bryan and her husband, Charles Bryan, were more focused on keeping their twin 7-year-old daughters warm inside their Baltimore home—where the thermostat read 47 degrees. All they had for heat was a gas stove, gas water heater and a fire in the fireplace.

Gas blast at Conn. power plant kills at least 5

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (AP)—An explosion that sounded like a sonic boom blew out walls of an unfinished power plant and set off a fire during a test of natural gas lines Sunday, killing at least five workers and injuring a dozen or more.

The explosion at the Kleen Energy Systems plant in Middletown, about 20 miles south of Hartford, could be heard and felt for miles.

Deputy Fire Marshal Al Santostefano told The Associated Press on Sunday night that no one was known to be missing amid the rubble from the damaged plant. Still, crews planned to spend all night going through debris in case there were any more victims. The cause of the gas explosion was unknown, and the investigation was to begin Monday morning, he said.

AP

An aerial view of the aftermath of an explosion at the Kleen Energy Systems plant located along the Connecticut River in Middletown, Conn. Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

The explosion left huge pieces of metal that once encased the plant peeling off its sides. A large swath of the structure was blackened and surrounded by debris, but the building, its roof and its two smokestacks were still standing. Rescue crews had set up several tents alongside the site, which is a few miles from Wesleyan University on a wooded and hilly 137-acre parcel of land overlooking the Connecticut River.

The explosion happened around 11:15 a.m., Santostefano said. Mayor Sebastian Giuliano heard the blast while leaving church.

"It felt almost like a sonic boom," Giuliano said at an evening news conference.

Santostefano said 50 to 60 people were in the area at the time of the explosion, and multiple contractors were working on the project, making it difficult to quickly account for everyone.

One of those killed was Raymond Dobratz, a 58-year-old plumber from Old Saybrook, said his son, Erik Dobratz, who called the elder man "a great dad."

The 620-megawatt plant, which was almost complete, is being built to produce energy primarily using natural gas. Santostefano said workers for the construction company, O&G Industries, were purging the gas line when the explosion occurred.

Obama hasn't ruled out NY trial for 9/11 planner

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Sunday he has not ruled out a New York federal court trial for Sept. 11 planner Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, but he was taking into account the objections of the city's mayor and police commissioner.

The Obama administration has come under withering attack, mainly from Republicans, for a decision by his Justice Department to try the terrorist mastermind in a U.S. court near Ground Zero, site of the attack that destroyed New York's World Trade Center.

Obama said using the traditional judicial method was a "virtue of our system" in which Americans should take pride.

Obama

He also defended his decision, noting again that the administration of former President George W. Bush had handled terror suspects arrested in the United States in the same way.

"They prosecuted 190 folks in these Article III courts, got convictions and those folks are in maximum security prisons right now. And there have been no escapes," Obama said. "And it is a virtue of our system we should be proud of."

Later Sunday, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., responded: "Based on the security, logistical and cost concerns raised by the mayor and the police commissioner, it is not feasible to have the trials in New York. The administration should realize that and move on."

In a pre-Super Bowl interview with CBS' Katie Couric, Obama also said that passing health care reform remained the key to bringing down America's skyrocketing budget deficit. He said he was calling Republican and Democratic congressional leaders to a meeting later this month to thoroughly air the issue.

"The biggest thing, the most important thing we can do on deficits ... is to get a health reform package passed," Obama said.

NASA fuels space shuttle 2nd time, weather better

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—With the weather prospects looking up, astronauts boarded shuttle Endeavour for the second day in a row early Monday in hopes of blasting off on the last big space station construction mission.

The six astronauts looked more optimistic than they did Sunday morning, when the launch site was socked in with clouds. They waved to the crowds and made A-OK gestures with their fingers.

"Welcome aboard," launch controllers told commander George Zamka as he strapped in.

Liftoff was scheduled for 4:14 a.m. Monday. Aboard Endeavour were a new room and observation deck for the International Space Station.

NASA began fueling Endeavour on Sunday evening just as the Super Bowl was kicking off to the south in Miami. Launch director Mike Leinbach told his controllers to be at their computers, ready to support the launch, football or not. He said there would be no distractions in the firing room, scene of all the shuttle monitoring.

Sunday morning's try was spoiled by thick, low clouds. The clouds returned briefly Sunday night, but forecasters said it looked more favorable than the previous night and they put the odds of acceptable conditions at 60 percent.

Asia

Cowboy theme at American base in Afghanistan

FORWARD OPERATING BASE TOMBSTONE, Afghanistan (AP)—Welcome to the O.K. Corral.

Past the concrete slabs and guards in heavy combat gear, a wooden board at the entrance to an allied military base in Afghanistan shows an image of Wyatt Earp, the legendary lawman of the American Wild West. His features are stern and angular. He wears a cowboy hat and a drooping mustache, and a black-gloved hand holds a long-barreled revolver across his chest.

The lore of the Wild West and the hard reality of southern Afghanistan, the key battleground of the war between NATO forces and Taliban insurgents, share a few things: danger, men with guns and desert wilderness. At Tombstone, an allied base deep in the Taliban stronghold of Helmand province, signs and images recalling the 1881 shootout in Tombstone, Arizona give the place a gunslinger motif.

The edgy, theme park touch suits the American soldiers.

"It's a little more entertaining," said Sgt. Maj. Robert Haemmerle, who is attached to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment of Task Force Stryker. "It's got a little pizazz."

Many U.S. military installations in Afghanistan are named after soldiers slain in combat, or units that first deployed at a particular site. It's unusual to see base features that lighten the mood in a region where the threat of death is a part of life.

British and Danish soldiers share the grounds with the Americans, but don't have Wild West logos among their tents and vehicles. On the U.S. side, an "O.K. Corral" sign has been hoisted in the parking area of the Strykers, U.S. armored vehicles that carry infantry.

The gunfight in Tombstone happened near the O.K. Corral in Tombstone. Earp and his two brothers, along with dentist and gambler John H. "Doc" Holliday, were looking to disarm and arrest the Clanton and the McLaury brothers for violating a town gun ordinance. Frank and Tom McLaury and Billy Clanton were killed in one of the most famous shootouts in U.S. history.

The Tombstone base is near the Afghan town of Lashkar Gah, where insurgents are active. It's adjacent to the far bigger Camp Leatherneck, a U.S. Marine base, and close to the British Camp Bastion. The Wild West theme seems to fit its small size.

AP

Wild West wanted posters decorate the dining hall as U.S. soldiers walk by at Tombstone base in Helmand province, Southern Afghanistan, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

"Out here is the John Wayne outpost, surrounded," said Daniel Smith of Mount Holly, N.J., a civilian who supervises the dining hall and other services for the American troops. "It gives a little home feeling, a home away from home."

Civilian contractors say they have added the Wild West decorations since last year. Door signs say Long Horn Saloon and Big Nose Kate's, a reference to Holliday's companion, "Big Nose Kate" Elder. A gazebo where soldiers chat and smoke is named after Tombstone's Crystal Palace Saloon. On the dining hall walls, there are copies of old "Wanted, Dead or Alive" posters and reward notices for the likes of the Sundance Kid, Butch Cassidy and Jesse James.

One Las Vegas notice hints at a lynching:

"Notice! To Thieves, Thugs, Fakirs, and Bunko-Steerers... If found within the limits of this City after TEN O'CLOCK p.m., this night, you will be invited to attend a GRAND NECK-TIE PARTY, the expense of which will be borne by 100 Substantial Citizens."

WORLD BRIEFS

Chinese police shut down hacker training business

BEIJING (AP)—Police in central China have shut down a hacker training operation that openly recruited thousands of members online and provided them with cyberattack lessons and malicious software, state media said Monday. The crackdown comes amid growing concern that China is a center for a global explosion of Internet crimes. Search giant Google said last month its e-mail accounts were hacked from China in an assault that also hit at least 20 other companies. Police in Hubei province arrested three people suspected of running the hacker site known as the Black Hawk Safety Net that disseminated Web site hacking techniques and Trojan software, the China Daily newspaper said. Trojans, which can allow outside access to a computer when implanted, are used by hackers to illegally control computers.

Strong earthquake hits off southern Japan coast

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake shook several small islands off Japan's southern coast on Sunday, rattling buildings over 100 miles (160 kilometers) away in Taiwan and causing officials to temporarily issue a tsunami warning. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. Japan's Meteorological Agency said the earthquake hit at 3:10 p.m. (0610 GMT; 2:10 a.m. EDT) and registered magnitude 6.6. The U.S. Geological Survey measured it at 6.4. Japanese officials immediately issued a warning for a tsunami about 1.6 feet (50 centimeters) high, but removed the warning about an hour later.

India successfully tests nuclear-capable missile

NEW DELHI (AP)—India again successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable missile Sunday that can hit targets across much of Asia and the Middle East, a defense ministry press release said. It was the fourth test of the Agni III missile, the statement added. The first attempt in 2006 failed, but the last two tests were successful. "The Agni III missile tested for the full range, hit the target with pinpoint accuracy and met all the mission objectives," the press release added. India's current arsenal of missiles is largely intended for confronting archrival Pakistan. The Agni III, in contrast, is India's longest-range missile, designed to reach 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles)—putting China's major cities well into range, as well as Middle Eastern targets.

China finds 170 more tons of tainted milk powder

BEIJING (AP)—China has found another 170 tons of tainted milk powder in an emergency crackdown that has made it increasingly clear many products discovered in the country's 2008 milk scandal were repackaged for sale instead of destroyed.

The growing number of cases in recent weeks challenges the government's earlier promise to overhaul its approach to food safety after hundreds of thousands of children in that scandal were sickened by milk products tainted with an industrial chemical. At least six children died.

Already, tainted milk products have recently emerged in China's largest city, Shanghai, and in the provinces of Shaanxi, Shandong, Liaoning, Guizhou, Jilin and Hebei.

China's 10-day emergency crackdown on the products is set to end Wednesday, and it was not clear whether it would be extended. The country's biggest holiday, the Lunar New Year, starts this weekend, and already some offices are closing and millions of people are going on vacation.

In the latest discovery, officials recalled more than 170 tons of milk powder tainted by the industrial chemical melamine and closed two dairy companies in the northern region of Ningxia, the China Daily newspaper reported Monday.

The report said officials seized 72 tons of the powder but were still looking for the rest, which had been repackaged by the Ningxia Tiantian Dairy Co. Ltd. and sold to factories in the neighboring region of Inner Mongolia and the bustling southern provinces of Guangdong and Fujian.

Dairy suppliers in the past have been accused of adding melamine, which is high in nitrogen, to watered-down milk to make it appear protein-rich in quality tests that measure nitrogen.

The report said the tainted powder should have been destroyed in the 2008 scandal, and that Ningxia Tiantian Dairy got it from an unnamed company as a debt payment.

"Our small companies were in total trust of their partners because they've been doing business and having good relations with them for a long time," Zhao Shuming, secretary-general of the Ningxia Dairy Industry Association, told The Associated Press. "They didn't expect those companies would hurt them."

China Daily quoted Zhao as saying many small dairies, including Ningxia Tiantian, don't have the technology to even test for melamine.

"Flaws in the previous system led to the current chaos. What if companies with tainted milk also hold back their stocks for this round of checkups and reuse them later, just like what's happening now?" the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Malaysia: Anwar wants sodomy trial judge removed

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The sodomy trial of a Malaysian opposition leader who claims he is a victim of political persecution was temporarily halted Monday after he called for the removal of the presiding judge.

Anwar Ibrahim is accused of sodomizing a former male aide and could be barred from politics for five years if convicted. He claims the government trumped up the charges in order to remove him from the political scene and weaken his opposition political party. The government denies the allegations.

Anwar said Monday he was dissatisfied that the judge took no action against a newspaper owned by the ruling party that published a headline and photograph about the trial last week that he said were misleading and tantamount to contempt of court.

Ibrahim

High Court Judge Mohamad Zabidin Diah's decision raised "an element of real danger of bias," Anwar said in a court document. "There has been a departure from the standard of evenhanded justice which the law requires."

The judge is scheduled to hear the application and decide whether to step down from the case Tuesday.

However, Anwar's application appeared unlikely to succeed because Mohamad Zabidin has previously refused to cite the newspaper for contempt, saying Anwar's lawyers should file a police complaint if they believed the daily's coverage was malicious.

Anwar is accused of sodomizing 24-year-old Saiful Bukhari Azlan at a private condominium on June 26, 2008.

Sodomy, even if consensual, is punishable by up to 20 years in prison in Muslim-majority Malaysia.

Chinese envoy in NKorea; 2 Koreas meet at border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A senior Chinese envoy was in North Korea on Monday on a mission to persuade the reclusive state to rejoin nuclear disarmament talks, reports said, while officials from the two Koreas met in the North to discuss restarting joint tour programs.

Wang Jiarui, a top Communist Party official, will likely meet Monday with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il to discuss the stalled six-party nuclear talks, the South Korean cable network YTN reported, without citing its source.

The visit from North Korea's chief ally and benefactor comes amid an international push to get North Korea back to negotiations on dismantling the regime's nuclear program. U.N. political chief B. Lynn Pascoe also was due in Pyongyang this week.

A South Korean delegation, meanwhile, traveled to a North Korean border town to discuss restarting tours to the North's famed Diamond Mountain resort and ancient sights in downtown Kaesong. The tours, which offered South Koreans and others a rare chance to visit North Korea, were suspended in 2008 amid inter-Korean tensions.

Reclusive North Korea has been reaching out to the international community recently after months of tensions over its nuclear and missile programs.

World

Health emergency: Helping Haiti's fragile minds

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The battered bodies may be mending, but the minds still struggle.

As many as one in five Haiti earthquake victims have suffered trauma so great with the multiple shock of lost homes, jobs and loved ones that they won't be able to cope without professional help, doctors say.

In a country where mental health services barely existed before the quake, building the required support is a huge challenge. The symptoms can't be diagnosed by stethoscopes, blood tests and X-rays, and can take time to surface after the initial shock of the disaster.

"It's not about immediate psychological counseling," said Dr. Lynne Jones, a senior medical adviser for the International Medical Corps. "It's about assisting mourning. People cannot recover if their social needs are not met."

Jones, a veteran of natural disasters and wars from Bosnia to Indonesia, is teaching front-line doctors how to identify "disabling fear" and, quite literally, hold people's hands and listen.

Hugo Emmanuel is one of the untold thousands who doctors say have lost the ability to cope.

"Stay away! I don't want you to touch me," he barks at an American nurse who only wants to wash his shattered lower leg.

Emmanuel, 49, is an educated man of spindly limbs but voluble spirit who lies on a mattress on the floor of the kitchenette in the Espoir Hospital in the capital's eastern hills.

AP

Hilary Icilda hugs her dolls in a street of downtown Port-au-Prince, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010. As many as one in five Haiti's earthquake survivors have suffered trauma so great with the multiple shock of lost homes, jobs and loved ones that they won't be able to cope without professional help, doctors say.

He tore the cast off his leg last week. For days after he arrived two weeks ago, he only let the hospital director feed him; he claimed everyone else was trying to poison him.

Emmanuel, who lies in his underwear beneath a white sheet and towel, is at least getting personal attention. Most of those diagnosed with severe trauma are treated as outpatients because there is no room for them in the country's 91 functioning hospitals.

"The doctors in such situations tend only to hand out tranquilizers," Jones said. "We don't want them to do that."

Tranquilizers are hardly sufficient for earthquake victims like Emmanuel, who lost his house, both of his parents and his job.

"I was in a coma-type situation," Emmanuel says in graceful French that reflects his experience as a Quisqueya University researcher. "Every time I think about losing my family, I lose my mind." He quickly corrects himself. "I'm not crazy. I just think I'm suffering from psychological shock."

The hospital's director, Dr. Gusse Darline, said Emmanuel is sporadically amnesiac. But that's only part of his problem.

"He didn't want to come into the hospital for treatment. We had to drag him in," she said.

Darline says she doesn't know what to do with Emmanuel once his leg heals.

Port-au-Prince's only psychiatric hospital is barely functioning. All but 11 of its more than 100 pre-quake patients were removed by relatives who feared the building would collapse in another quake, said Dr. Peter Hughes, an Irish psychiatrist who arrived late last week and is studying what to do.

Hospital nurses have refused to accompany Hughes into the building—though it appears structurally sound to him—because "they are absolutely petrified" of another quake, he said.

"There's no electricity and no running water. Some patients are in a barred room. There is a need for mattresses and working toilets."

It is not known how many mental health workers are available to help in Haiti. Pan American Health Organization officials who are coordinating medical care among more than 200 aid groups have only just begun to create a database of hospitals, patients, doctors and medical resources.

But it seems clear that Haiti will have to train more of its own personnel to work on the front lines with people suffering from psychological trauma.

Iran leader orders new step in nuclear program

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president on Sunday ordered his atomic agency to significantly enrich the country's stockpile of uranium, angering Western nations who want to the Islamic republic to halt its nuclear program.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad maintained, however, that Iran was also still willing to follow a U.N. plan to export its uranium abroad for further enrichment. Refining uranium produces nuclear fuel for a power plant but if carried out far enough can create material for a weapon.

The mixed messages from Tehran have infuriated the U.S. and its European allies, who claim Iran is only stalling for time as it attempts to build a nuclear weapon. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates called for the international community to pressure Iran into abandoning its nuclear program.

German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg said: "Today's statement shows that farce is being played out just like we have seen in the past, that the outstretched hand of the international community has not only not been taken but pushed back."

Costa Rica elects 1st woman president in landslide

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Costa Ricans have elected their first woman president as the ruling party candidate won in a landslide after campaigning to continue free market policies in Central America's most stable nation.

With most of the votes from Sunday's election counted, Laura Chinchilla held a 22-point lead over her closest rival. Her 47 percent share of the vote was well beyond the 40 percent needed to avoid a run-off.

The 50-year-old protege of the current president, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oscar Arias, promised to pursue the same economic policies that recently brought the country into a trade pact with the U.S. and opened commerce with China.

"Today we are making history," said Chinchilla, who will be the fifth Latin American woman to serve as president when she takes office in May. "The Costa Rican people have given me their confidence, and I will not betray it."

The closest contender, Otton Solis of the Citizens Action Party, got 25 percent of the votes. He and the other main rival, Libertarian Otto Guevara, quickly conceded defeat.

It was unclear, however, whether Chinchilla's National Liberation Party would gain a majority in congress.

Analyst Heather Berkman of the Eurasia Group said coalition building without a majority would likely delay or derail controversial fiscal reforms to shore up government finances and energy deregulation.

The third-place candidate, Guevara, congratulated Chinchilla as "our president," but he also pointed out the new political muscle of his tax-bashing Libertarian Movement Party. He won 21 percent of the vote.

Arias' economic policies helped insulate Costa Rica from the world economic crisis as he kept a high profile on the world stage as a negotiator in Honduras' political crisis after a coup deposed President Manuel Zelaya in June.

Critics of the Arias government, in which Chinchilla served as vice president, contended its policies catered to big developers to boost the economy at the cost of the nation's fragile ecosystems.

But most Costa Ricans were reluctant to shake up the status quo in a country with relatively high salaries, the longest life expectancy in Latin America, a thriving ecotourism industry and near-universal literacy.

Yanukovych declares victory in Ukrainian vote

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovych declared victory in Ukraine's presidential runoff but his opponent rejected the claim, saying the vote was too close to call.

Exit polls showed Yanukovych—the main foe of protesters in Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution—with a narrow lead in Sunday's vote over Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, a key figure in those pro-democracy protests.

Ukraine's Central Election Commission reported Monday that Yanukovych was ahead 49.2 percent to 45.2 percent with 61.7 percent of the vote counted.

If the result stands, a Yanukovych victory could restore much of Moscow's influence in a country that has labored to build bridges to the West and closes a chapter in the country's political history that has been defined by the Orange protests.

Polls show that most Ukrainian voters still support the economic and political goals of the 2004 Orange revolt, but many are deeply disillusioned with the failure of its leaders to carry out promised reforms.

"From this day, a new path opens up for Ukraine," Yanukovych declared late Sunday, vowing to "take the country down the path of change."

Three major exit polls showed Yanukovych winning by a few percentage points but Tymoshenko said they were unreliable because the race was so close.

"It is too soon to draw any conclusions," she said, urging supporters to fight for every ballot.

The election commission projected the turnout among Ukraine's 37 million voters at about 70 percent, 3.2 percentage points higher than the Jan. 17 first-round vote in which 18 candidates competed.

Early figures showed a heavier turnout in Yanukovych's strongholds in Ukraine's Russian-speaking east than in Tymoshenko's districts in the country's Ukrainian-speaking west.

WORLD BRIEFS

Doctors: Argentine ex-leader OK after rush surgery

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Ex-President Nestor Kirchner, husband of Argentina's current leader and a hopeful to resume the office, emerged successfully from emergency surgery on a key artery to his brain Sunday, his doctors said. Cabinet ministers shared the news as they came to show support for the first family after the operation on Kirchner's right carotid artery at the Los Arcos hospital in Buenos Aires' Palermo district. "The news is good; the operation is over," Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana said. "Everything's OK ... we now know that he's come out OK and we've come to accompany the family," Labor Minister Carlos Tomada said. Kirchner's wife and successor as president, Cristina Fernandez, and their two children were with him in the hospital, the state news agency Telam said.

Skier survives 17 hours under Swiss avalanche

EVOLENE, Switzerland (AP)—A skier was buried beneath an avalanche for 17 hours in the Swiss Alps before being pulled from the snow with only mild hypothermia, police said Sunday. The 21-year-old man appeared to have survived because he was trapped next to a pocket of air that allowed him to breathe even though he was unable to free himself from the crushing weight of the snow, police in the southern canton of Valais said. "I've never heard of such a case before," said police spokesman Jean-Marie Bornet. "It's already very difficult to survive more than 45 minutes beneath an avalanche." The man, who had been skiing alone on an unmarked slope in the Evolene region about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Geneva, was reported missing by his family at 4.30 p.m. Saturday, police said.

Delays plague Somali offensive against Islamists

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Top Somali officials are threatening to begin a military offensive against Islamist insurgents but critics—some of them demoralized soldiers—say a lack of equipment, funds and training put any ultimate success into doubt. The offensive has been planned for months and has been postponed repeatedly, but questions remain about whether it can bring long-term security in a country suffering from almost two decades of conflict. It is still unclear when the offensive will begin or what it will entail. Somali forces are hampered by a lack of equipment, late paychecks, and some complain they do not even have enough food.

Overdrive

Maligned or adored, Subaru's Forester KEEPS ON TICKING

By WARREN BROWN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—Sometimes you just want reliability—a simple vehicle that does what it does well and does it repeatedly. You want the fossil-fueled version of the Timex: It "keeps on ticking."

The Subaru Forester is the Timex of the automobile industry. First manufactured in Japan in 1997 and brought to the United States a year later, it has grown in popularity in regions such as this, places where winter can be truly wintry and where foothills lead to mountains.

But "popularity" is not the same as "acceptability." The Forester is revered by its many loyalists, who tend to replace one Forester with another. It's reviled by critics, who dismiss it as a household appliance.

It is now the third generation of the Forester, which was thoroughly revised in 2009—made larger (three inches longer) and turned into more of a compact sport-utility vehicle than the little all-wheel-drive wagon it was.

The 2010 model retains the strong taste of vanilla in terms of exterior and interior styling—far more satisfying than exciting. The same holds true for road performance—perfectly competent for dry-road highway runs, accelerates well when necessary and handles well in high-speed highway traffic.

But in overall demeanor and decorum, there is little about the 2010 Forester 2.5X Limited I drove here that would make a real truck man want to fall for a Forester. I don't care.

Again, sometimes all you want is reliability. And my family and I were much in need of that attribute as the chilly rain on Mine Hill Road became thick frozen slush coated by light snow. The soul of the Forester's reliability is its horizontally opposed, four-cylinder, 170-horsepower engine and its symmetrical all-wheel-drive system. They work together well.

THE WASHINGTON POS

The 2010 Subaru Forester 2.5X Limited is a dependable if not exciting ride, and its buyer base is loyal.

"Horizontally opposed" means the engine's cylinders are arranged side-by-side instead of in an "inline" (cylinders in a straight row) or "V" pattern.

The side-by-side cylinder arrangement reduces engine weight and saves space under the hood. That more efficient packaging offers certain benefits—better fuel economy via lower weight and better vehicle balance via a lower center of gravity because of the engine's more ideal placement in the vehicle's body.

Subaru's symmetrical all-wheel-drive system takes advantage of the Forester's engine design and layout. By designing the Forester (and all other Subaru models) to be all-wheel drive from the ground up, Subaru gave its customers an all-wheel-drive system that shifts power symmetrically, side to side, pretty much assuring that one wheel is gripping when another is slipping.

Excellent vehicle balance in combination with excellent traction is hard to beat when weather combines with road design—narrow foothill roads with deep drops on either side, covered with thickening slush—to assure that there will be some slipping at some point somewhere, as there was on this trip.

The Forester responded expertly—gripping as needed when needed; preventing short turns into skids from becoming longer, more dangerous skids; and handling potentially upsetting vehicle weight transfers with aplomb.

I like that kind of performance, that sort of reliability. And I suppose that's why the Forester's buyer base, a key branch of the Subaru family, remains as strong as it is. The Forester loyalists believe in the Forester. The people who make the Forester obviously believe in them. In the automobile business, or in any other business, it doesn't get much better than that.

NUTS & BOLTS

COMPLAINTS
Are beauty and value incompatible? I don't think so. Here's hoping that Subaru agrees with me in future iterations of the Forester. Just a little bit of cute could smooth acceptance of practicality for more people.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
All three are good in dry, on-road driving. "Good" here means acceptable to pleasing for most people trying to get from one point to another as safely and comfortably as possible with small loads. Throttle jockeys will find it boring. In wet, wintry weather, it's hard to beat this one.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
The quiet, dependable, loving and beloved boy or girl next door you could turn to in rough patches but whom you would have never, ever considered marrying.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Forester is a front-engine, compact, car-based, all-wheel-drive crossover-utility vehicle.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSIONS
The 2010 Subaru Forester, of which there are five styles or trim levels, comes with a standard 2.5-liter, horizontally opposed, four-cylinder, 16-valve engine that develops 170 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 170 foot-pounds of torque at 4,400 revolutions per minute. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard. A turbocharged version of the 2.5-liter engine (224 horsepower and 226 foot-pounds of torque) is available in the top-of-the-line Forester 2.5XT.

CAPACITIES
The Forester 2.5X Limited has seats for five people. With the rear seats folded, cargo capacity is 63 cubic feet. With rear seats up, cargo capacity is 20.8 cubic feet. It can carry a payload of 1,140 pounds and be equipped to tow a trailer weighing 2,400 pounds. Fuel capacity is 16.9 gallons of recommended regular gasoline.

SAFETY
The Subaru Forester has top crash-safety ratings from the federal National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the privately owned Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

PRICE
The tested 2010 Forester 2.5X Limited starts at $25,995 with a dealer's invoice price of $24,355. Price as tested is $30,160, including $3,470 in options ($1,800 console-mounted navigation system, premium sound system with iPod connectivity, puddle lights, other items) and a $695 transportation charge. Dealer's price as tested is $27,725.

Toyota to announce action soon for Prius hybrids

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota said Sunday that it will soon announce plans to deal with braking problems in its prized Prius hybrid amid reports it has decided to issue a recall for the vehicle in Japan, a possible new embarrassment for the world's biggest automaker.

Toyota Motor Corp. has already had to recall more than 7 million other cars in the U.S., Europe and China over a sticky accelerator and floor mats that can get caught in the gas pedal. Those problems and criticism of Toyota's response to them have sullied the stellar reputation for quality long enjoyed by one of Japan's corporate icons.

Separately, the company has told dealers in the United States it is preparing to repair the brakes on thousands of Prius vehicles there, according to an e-mail sent by a company executive. It was unclear whether Toyota planned a formal U.S. recall.

"We will make an announcement soon on the action we plan to take," spokeswoman Ririko Takeuchi said, commenting on media reports Sunday that the company has decided to issue a Japan recall. Takeuchi did not confirm those reports.

The Prius is the world's top-selling gas-electric hybrid and its fuel efficiency has drawn intense interest amid concerns about global warming and dependence on fossil fuels.

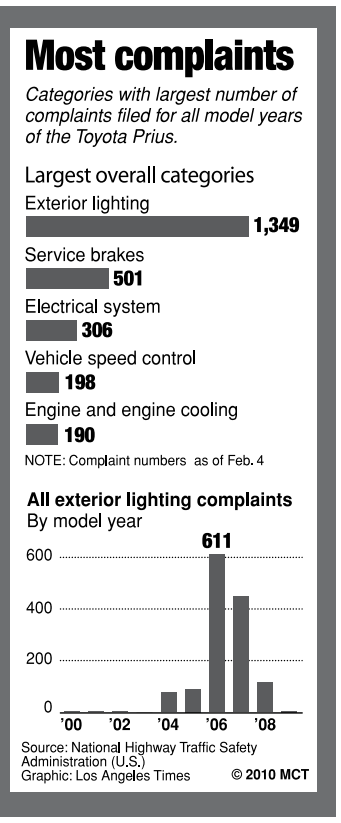
Toyota decided Saturday on a recall in Japan covering its latest Prius model and has notified domestic dealers, Japan's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri, reported without naming sources. It said Toyota would announce the move early in the coming week after consulting with the Japanese government. Japan's Kyodo News agency and TV Asahi carried similar reports. Kyodo said Toyota had started notifying dealers and that at least 170,000 vehicles in Japan would be subject to the recall.

Phone calls to the section at Japan's transport ministry dealing with recalls went unanswered Sunday. None of about 10 Toyota dealers in Tokyo and the western Japanese city of Osaka contacted about the reports said they had received any notification, though some said they expected to have news this week.

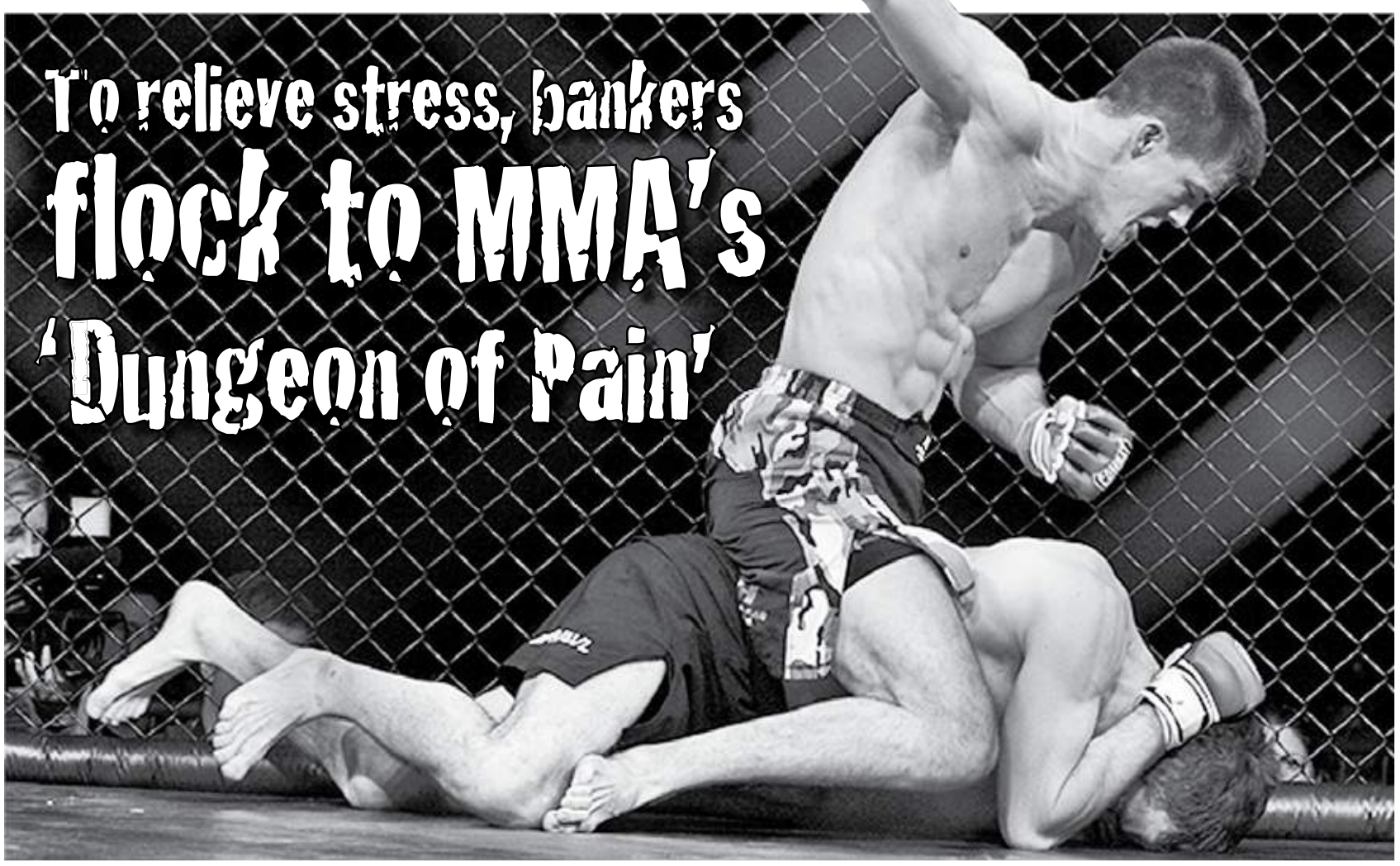
Prius drivers in Japan and the U.S. have complained of a short delay before the brakes kick in—a flaw Toyota says can be fixed with a software programming change. The lag occurs as the car is switching between brakes for the gas engine and the electric motor—a process that is key to the hybrid's increased mileage.

The brake problem affects about 270,000 Priuses that were sold in the U.S. and Japan starting last May. The company blames a software glitch and says it has already fixed vehicles that went on sale since last month.

Bob Carter, a Toyota group vice president, sent an e-mail message Friday night to U.S. dealers saying the automaker is working on a Prius repair plan and will disclose more details early this week. At least 100 drivers of Prius cars in the U.S. have complained to the government that their brakes seemed to fail momentarily when they were driving on bumpy roads. The government says the problem is suspected in four crashes and two minor injuries.



Li[illegible] Style



To relieve stress, bankers flock to MMA's 'Dungeon of Pain'

John Cholish, a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch and professional mixed-martial-arts fighter, punches Chris Conner during the "Battle at the Nation's Capital" in Washington last December. Cholish, who wrestled in college, spends a couple of hours a day training to compete in mixed martial arts. "We get a lot of finance guys," says the gym's program director.
BLOOMBERG NEWS

By KRISTEN HAUNSS
(C) 2010, BLOOMBERG NEWS

NEW YORK—A black eye or row of stitches may grace John Cholish's face when he meets with wealth-management clients at Merrill Lynch.

Those injuries occur after Cholish, 26, leaves his midtown Manhattan office and heads for the gym. He spends a couple of hours most evenings at the Renzo Gracie Academy on West 30th Street, kicking, throwing punches and tackling opponents, as they train to compete in mixed martial arts.

"We get a lot of finance guys," said Max McGarr, the gym's program director and a professional fighter. "It's a good release from their job. If you lost hundreds of thousands of dollars, it's good to come here and get it out."

Mixed martial arts is a contact sport combining aspects of wrestling, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, grappling, ground fighting, muay thai and other techniques, Cholish said.

"It's a great stress reliever," said Richard Byrne, chief executive officer of Deutsche Bank Securities, who practices jiu-jitsu and sparring at Renzo with Cholish and other professional fighters. "Talk about a great way to get aggression out, and it's an unbelievable workout."

Ultimate Fighting Championship has been the primary driver of the sport's popularity, promoting and staging fights around the world during the past eight years, said Marc Ganis, president of Sportscorp, a consulting firm in Chicago. Gate receipts at the UFC 100 in Las Vegas in July were $5.1 million, according to information handouts provided by the company. Tickets sold for $100 to $1,000, and competitors were paid $5,000 to $400,000.

Cholish and his roommate, Erik Owings, also a professional fighter, converted the top level of their duplex apartment on the Upper East Side into a gym, where Byrne sometimes brings Wall Street colleagues to work out.

"It's the dungeon of pain," said Brian Peganoff, an assistant vice president in corporate cash management at Deutsche Bank. Peganoff, 27, learned tae kwon do as a child and started boxing as a workout while attending Penn State. He began jiu-jitsu about two years ago.

"People on Wall Street are pretty competitive and I think that carries over," Peganoff said. "That's the ultimate competition, putting two people in a cage and seeing who is the better guy."

Byrne, 48, didn't know a lot about UFC when Frank Fertitta and Lorenzo Fertitta bought it in 2001. They're chief executive officer and vice chairman, respectively, of Las Vegas-based Station Casinos, which is reorganizing under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. First at Merrill Lynch and later at Frankfurt-based Deutsche Bank, Byrne worked with the brothers on financing deals and they set him up for lessons in muay thai and Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

"I got hooked," said Byrne, who is based in New York. Deutsche Bank arranged a $350 million financing in 2007 and a $100 million loan last year for Zuffa, the parent company of UFC that the Fertittas formed in 2001.

In a UFC competition, two fighters square off by weight class. A regular bout has three rounds of five minutes, while a championship fight goes five rounds. There are eight ways to win, including a knockout or judges' decision. The rules vary for fights sponsored by other groups.

Fighters are allowed to use moves from any martial arts discipline inside UFC's eight-sided rings. Moves disallowed by the Nevada Athletic Commission include butting heads, gouging eyes and groin attacks. Fighters wear a mouthpiece and gloves, but no helmet or shin guards.

"They have been generating gates that have broken records around the country," Ganis said. "People are interested. When it is in town, they pay top dollar, they watch it on TV, they follow the lives of the contenders."

Cholish wrestled in college for Cornell. He began training five days a week shortly after he graduated and moved to New York City.

"I got more involved in jiu-jitsu and fell in love with it," Cholish said. "Before I knew it, I was fighting professionally."

He has a 2-1 record after winning Dec. 12 in Quebec City with a technical knockout in the second round. At least four clients were in the audience for his first victory, in December 2008 at the Battle of the Nation's Capital in Washington. Mixed- martial-arts competitors typically fight only a few times a year, and his next bout is Feb. 19 in Atlantic City.

Kevin Burns, who trains the commercial business sales force at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa, started fighting professionally in 2006. He has an 8-4 record after losing Dec. 12 at the UFC 107 in Memphis, Tenn.

"I think the people in finance that are interested in the MMA understand the strategy and the preparation," said Burns, 29, who's scheduled to fight again March 13 in Des Moines. "They can correlate it to all of the moving parts in finance."

Ramon Bauza, 44, head of foreign exchange debt capital market sales at Deutsche Bank in New York, was a wrestler at Boston College and trains with Byrne and Cholish. The finance industry is an aggressive culture that leads toward physically challenging sports, Bauza said.

"It's a recession," said McGarr, the program director at Renzo. "Some days, fighting is the only thing holding them together."

Dating? Don't sell yourself short.

By ELLEN MCCARTHY
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

Jess McCann was just out of college when she interviewed for her first sales position. Rather than have her sit across the desk from a hiring manager, the company sent her out on a sales call with an experienced associate who closed three deals that day.

"And I was just very impressed, just with the way she was," McCann recalls. "She was so confident, she presented herself so well, she got people to do what she wanted. ... I wanted to learn to be her."

Soon after, McCann found herself training other young sales professionals, so she read every book on sales techniques she could find. In her morning pep talks, she would often echo the dating analogies sales experts used in describing their professional strategies.

"OK," she would start, "you're going to go to an office today, and you don't know this person you're going to talk to, right? So it's like a first date. And when you walk in on a first date, what do you want to do? Smile, have good eye contact, exude positive energy."

Actually, that wasn't what McCann had always done in her own dating life, but after frequently employing the tactic in her day job, it began to influence her approach to socializing. "And some of the people in my office would come up to me and say, `You know, since I started working here, I have gotten a lot more dates.' "

McCann seized on the idea that sales techniques can inform dating strategies—not just the reverse—and, at 29, she quit her medical sales position to write an advice book ("You Lost Him at Hello") and establish a coaching service.

The premise, she says, is this: "You make love happen. You make your relationships possible."

McCann says the mistake many people—and women in particular—often make is that they think: "It will happen when I least expect it. He'll find me. He'll approach me. He'll call me." That, she says, is "very disempowering. It's passive."

In coaching women, McCann often takes her clients to a bar or another social setting and asks them to look a stranger in the eyes and smile.

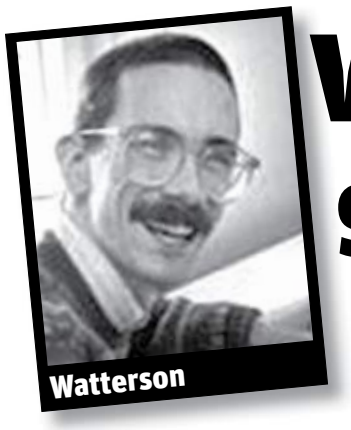
"I might as well be asking them to bungee jump. And I think they'd actually do that before they'd smile at a guy they think is cute. They're terrified," she says. "People think that when you look at them and smile the person is seeing into your soul for some reason. ... And it's ridiculous. Because everybody likes to be liked. That's what I have to remind people: It's OK to smile. It's OK for people to know that you like them."

To ease into the strategy, McCann suggests clients use it on everyone, smiling "at the cashier and the old man in the chair," just to get in the habit of giving off warmth.

She's a proponent of women starting conversations with men, but she advises them not to overinvest themselves in each date, getting their hopes up that "this could be it." She also warns clients against spending too much time too soon with someone they've just begun to date or precluding themselves from seeing other people in the hopes that a relationship will turn exclusive.

And if none of this strategy talk sounds very romantic, well, too bad. "Romance is for the movies," she says. "This is real life. You need a strategy if you want to get a job. You need a strategy if you want to buy a house or start a business. You need a strategy to get anywhere in life, and dating is no different, unfortunately."

THE WASHINGTON POST
Jess McCann, author of "You Lost Him at Hello," says, "You make love happen. You make your relationships possible."


Watterson

Watterson: I've never regretted stopping 'Calvin and Hobbes'

By MICHAEL CAVNA
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

For years, Bill Watterson, creator of the beloved comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes," has been the cartooning world's version of J.D. Salinger.

Seemingly chagrined by all the fame-fueled curiosity into his personal life over the decades, Watterson—who grew up in the perhaps aptly named Chagrin Falls—has, by many accounts, led a notably reclusive life in the Greater Cleveland area. He retired "Calvin and Hobbes" 15 years ago, sending his internationally embraced boy and tiger to sled off into the great white unknowns of reader imagination. And it's believed he granted his most recent interview in 1989.

Now, Cleveland Plain-Dealer journalist John Campanelli has landed what's apparently the first interview with Watterson in more than 20 years (as well as a main story): http://www.cleveland.com/living/index.ssf/2010/02/bill_watterson_creator_of_belo.html.

The interview comes not only 15 years since Watterson ended his strip, but also as the U.S. Postal Service releases a "Calvin" postage stamp. Since the strip became a worldwide hit in the '80s, Watterson has famously turned down millions of dollars in opportunities to merchandise his creation.

In the interview with Campanelli, Watterson says of the strip: "I've never regretted stopping when I did."

"It's always better to leave the party early," says Watterson. "If I had rolled along with the strip's popularity and repeated myself for another five, 10 or 20 years, the people now 'grieving' for 'Calvin and Hobbes' would be wishing me dead and cursing newspapers for running tedious, ancient strips like mine instead of acquiring fresher, livelier talent. And I'd be agreeing with them.

"I think some of the reason 'Calvin and Hobbes' still finds an audience today is because I chose not to run the wheels off it."

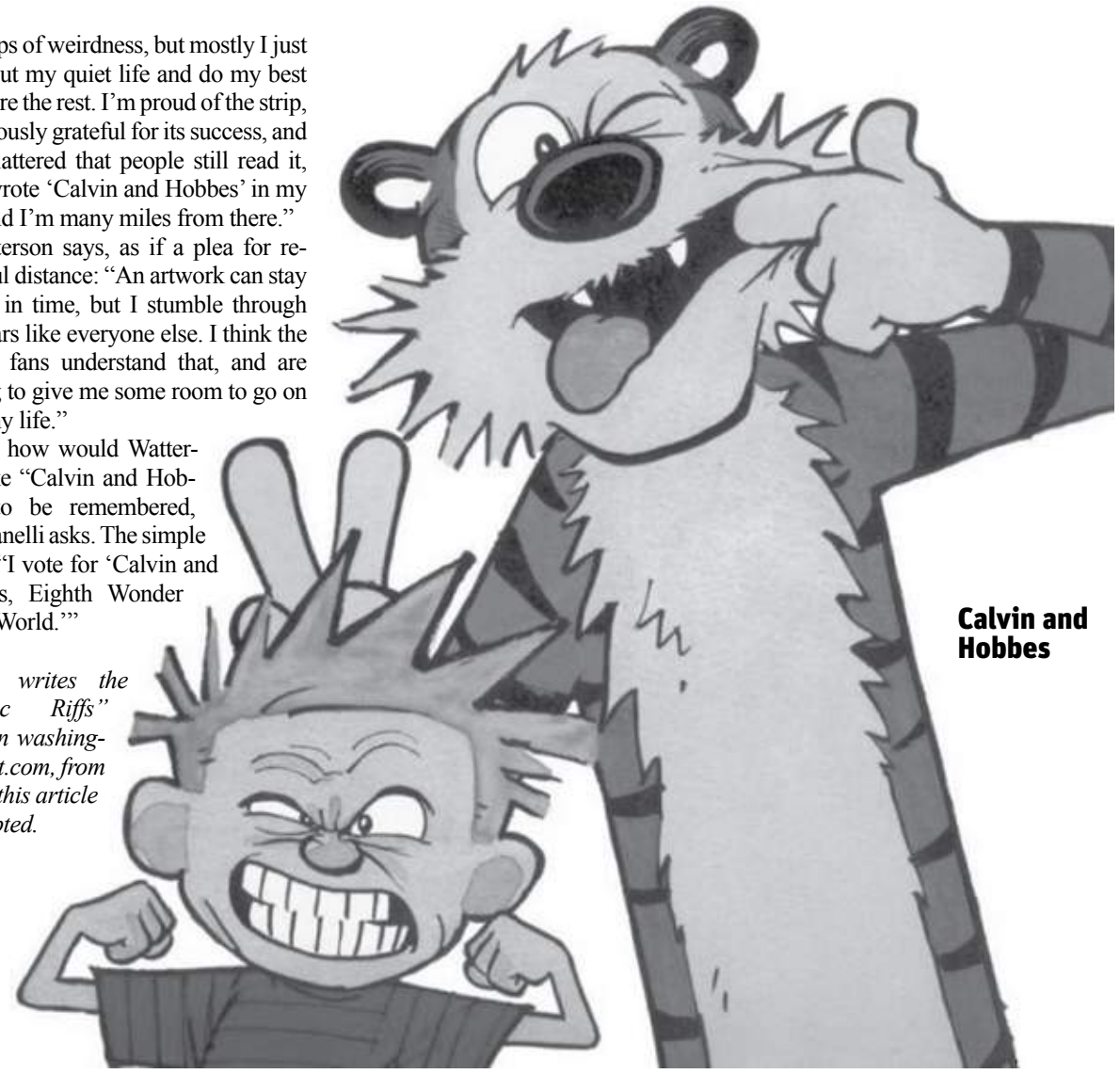
Of the supposed "rock star" connection with comics fans, Watterson jokes: "Ah, the life of a newspaper cartoonist—how I miss the groupies, drugs and trashed hotel rooms!"

The 51-year-old Ohio native then continues: "But since my 'rock star' days, the public attention has faded a lot. In Pop Culture Time, the 1990s were eons ago. There are occasional flare-ups of weirdness, but mostly I just go about my quiet life and do my best to ignore the rest. I'm proud of the strip, enormously grateful for its success, and truly flattered that people still read it, but I wrote 'Calvin and Hobbes' in my 30s, and I'm many miles from there."

Watterson says, as if a plea for respectful distance: "An artwork can stay frozen in time, but I stumble through the years like everyone else. I think the deeper fans understand that, and are willing to give me some room to go on with my life."

And how would Watterson like "Calvin and Hobbes" to be remembered, Campanelli asks. The simple reply: "I vote for 'Calvin and Hobbes, Eighth Wonder of the World.'"

Cavna writes the "Comic Riffs" blog on washingtonpost.com, from which this article is adapted.


Calvin and Hobbes

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Juan Cruz Aguon

April 18, 1955 — February 3, 2010

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife:	Victoria Santos Borja Aguon
Father:	Juan Borja Aguon
Mother:	Maria Cruz Aguon
Father In-Law:	Daniel Tudela Borja
Mother In-Law:	Joaquina Sablan Santos Borja
Daughter:	Victoria Borja Aguon
Grandson:	Jose Borja
Brothers and Sisters-In-Law:	David C. and Winnifrieda T. Aguon
	Bernadette C. Aguon
	Jesse James C. Aguon
	Leticia C. Borja

He is survived by his:

Children:	Frances Borja and Oscar Pangelinan (*Nathaniel, Dustin Jon, Oscar, Jr.*)
	Joaquina Borja Aguon and Isidoro Cabrera (*Toriana Lourdes*)
	John Vincent Borja Aguon and Yvonne Demello
Reared Daughters:	Victoria M. and Brainard Jones
	Bernadine B. Montague
Reared Grandchild:	Devin Calvo Santos
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:	Helen A. & David Chellis and children
	Ricardo C. & Mikella Aguon and children
	Joseph C. & Helen Aguon and children
	Catalina A. & Pete Salamone and children
	Edward C. & Magdalena DLG. Aguon and children
	Bernadita C. Aguon
	Frances C. Aguon & Ernest Candoleta and children
	Margarita A. & Kenneth Leon Guerrero and children
Brothers and Sisters In-Laws:	Vicente S. Borja and children
	Jose S. & Nancy Borja and children
	Juan S. & Nicolasa B. Borja and children
	Maria B. & Jose H. Salas and children
	Ines B. & Thomas Castro and children
	Daniel S. Borja, Jr.
	Roman S. & Anita A. Borja and children

Family Friends: Bernie Montague and Nida Bragado

He is additionally survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Godchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and Friends.

Daily morning mass is being offered at 6 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church. Nightly Rosary is being prayed at 8:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Tuesday, February 9, 2010, there will be a viewing at the Borja Funeral Home from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, February 11, 2010, the departed will be taken from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:00 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church and Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m.

Interment Service will follow at the family residence in As Teo.

Pete Townshend: Nice to be part of spectacle

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Pete Townshend is used to playing in front of stadiums filled with rabid fans who know every note of The Who's songs. He didn't get that at the band's Super Bowl halftime performance, but he's OK with that too.

Townshend and bandmate Roger Daltrey performed a medley of some of their most famous songs on entertainment's biggest stage Sunday, including "Won't Get Fooled Again" during a 12-minute set that included a laser-lit stage and plenty of fireworks.

While the crowd was involved, and some held up their cell phones to illuminate the night as instructed by the stadium announcers, they were somewhat subdued, and was clear it was not a Who event.

Backstage after their show, Townshend laughed and said: "You know, you could kind of tell from the stage the crowd is really here for the game."

"It was nice for that reason. It was nice to feel a part of something and not having it all to be about us," he added. When it was mentioned that most rock stars want everything to revolve around them, he joked and said: "We're too far gone to care I think."

It was the first football game Townshend and Daltrey, both Brits, ever saw (Daltrey went after his performance to watch the game, which the New Orleans Saints won over the Indianapolis Colts, 31-17). Townshend said he was awed by the spectacle, and the sheer work of putting together the event.

"It's extraordinary," said Townshend. "You forget how big sport is and how every week it happens ... I'm not trying to be humble but we felt like a very small piece of a huge team."

The Super Bowl also saw the debut of a new remix of "My Generation" by will.i.am and Slash. It is available for sale on Amazon.com, will.i.am's dipdive.com and the Who's Web site, and proceeds will go to aid Haiti after the earthquake there.

Townshend said he was impressed with the remix: "It's actually very elegant, it's not gangsta," he said of will.i.am's rap on the song.

Townshend called his entire Super Bowl experience a success, despite protests by some children's rights advocates about his presence in the Super Bowl.

Townshend was arrested in 2003 in Britain as part of a child pornography sting but later cleared. He accessed a Web site containing child pornography but said it was for research for his own campaign against child porn. He was required to register as a sex offender, despite being cleared. Townshend said he has been a children's advocate for years and was abused himself as a child.

He had to address the controversy at the Who's Super Bowl news conference, and though he feels like the protests were "a bit of a cheap shot," he said it was "dealt with fairly elegantly in the press conference."

"I think if people don't believe, they fall on that side of the line, there's little I can do, but most people have been very kind, very understanding, and I know I did nothing wrong," he said.

AP

Roger Daltrey, left, and Pete Townshend of The Who react after performing during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game between the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

Rihanna celebrates, BEPs party late

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Miami's South Beach was swamped with celebrities during Super Bowl week. Whether they were hanging out on South Beach, mingling together at intimate parties or participating in some of the more high-profile celebrity events, they often times outshined the football players during the sport's biggest showcase.

Here's a look at some of the more notable things seen, heard and observed leading up to Sunday's Super Bowl.

FASHIONABLY LATE

The Black Eyed Peas were more than tardy for the party.

The Grammy-winning band was the main attraction for Playboy's Super Bowl bash, which started around 9 p.m. But many guests had already headed out the door by the time the Peas rolled into the event around 2 a.m.

They may have had a better excuse than most for being late: The quartet had performed earlier Saturday night at American Airlines arena for the second date of their "The E.N.D." tour.

Nearby, another men's magazine—Maxim—was also holding court with stars like LL Cool J.

WEEK OF CELEBRATION

Rihanna had more to celebrate during Super Bowl week than most. The singer was still excited over her two Grammy wins a week ago.

"You never come down from that," said Rihanna, who won with Jay-Z and Kanye West for "Run This Town."

"When you remember it, you're like, 'Wow, I won a Grammy.'"

Rihanna will switch from the music world to the literary world soon. She's finishing a coffee table book that will be out this year.

"It's like a look into my life, behind the scenes, what you don't really get to see, but also fashion shots," she said.

BRODY BEING BRODY

Brody Jenner had some fun at a scantily clad woman's expense on a windy afternoon in Miami Beach.

The TV personality was hanging with his buddies outside the swank Eden Roc hotel when they observed a very tan, short brunette wearing a low-cut mini-dress waiting for a cab. She was desperately trying to keep her dress down in the wind and not show what little was left uncovered.

As she did, Jenner and his crew yelled out, "SNOOKI! SNOOKI! SNOOKI!"—because of the woman's resemblance to the reality starlet from the MTV reality show "Jersey Shore." When her cab finally arrived, she stopped holding on to her dress, revealing her underwear—and Jenner and friends cheered.

HEIDI'S LONG RECOVERY

Holly Montag says it's been tough for her sister Heidi to deal with all the critics of her massive plastic surgery.

Heidi—famous for her role on "The Hills"—admitted to having 10 procedures in one day to create her ideal look, including breast implants, a lip job, liposuction and more.

"She's being very strong and holding to her own morals and I'm very proud of her," said Holly, also on "The Hills," at Playboy's party on Saturday. "She's the strongest woman I know. She's done a brilliant job."

Holly Montag also said her sister is still not adjusted to her new body.

"She was still just getting used to it and it's a long recovery time. It's several months," she said. "She's being a trooper about the whole thing."

CELEBRATIONS AND HEADACHES

Kelly Rowland wasn't one of the celebrities who popped into town for the Super Bowl. She lives in Miami, and like a lot of residents, was trying to grapple with the headaches that come with the world's biggest game on your doorstep.

"I happened to come home during Super Bowl. I was like, 'Why is there so much traffic?' and everyone is like, 'Super Bowl!'" the singer said. "Nobody wants to drive. So I have to spend a lot of money for a car service."

Rowland—who shot to fame with Destiny's Child—said she's working on a new album with Akon, Ne-Yo and more.

PROUD MOTHER

Solange Knowles was a bit nervous when Rihanna and Jay-Z brought her young son Juelz on stage with them when they accepted their Grammy Award last Sunday.

"I was very surprised and very nervous when Rihanna put his mouth to the mic, because anything could have come out," she said Friday. "But I was very proud as a mom that he used his manners."

Knowles also downplayed her tweets on Grammy night where she seemed frustrated that despite sister Beyonce's record-breaking six Grammy wins in one night for a female, much of the attention was going to Taylor Swift, who won album of the year.

"I wasn't frustrated at all, I was just a proud sister. So, of course I wanted that to be celebrated. It was national history, it had never been done before and not only is it history, it's black history, it's music history. Anytime you break a record, I feel like it should be celebrated," she said.

Knowles, who was a DJ at Venus Williams' Tide party, said she was just in town for the parties, not the game: "I'm just in a different zone right now, not in party football mode."

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From Paris With Love

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
John Travolta and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers star in the spy thriller From Paris With Love for District B13's helmer Pierre Morel and EuropaCorp. The Luc Besson/Adi Hasak-penned tale revolves around the entwining paths of an American spy and an embassy worker during a tumultuous time in Paris.

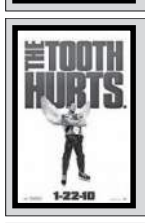
★ ★ ★

Edge of Darkness

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
Mystery • Rated R

Synopsis
Casino Royale's Martin Campbell returns to familiar territory with this adaptation of his own 1985 BBC miniseries—a mystery starring Mel Gibson as a detective looking into his political-activist daughter's death and uncovering layers of governmental conspiracies in the process. William Monahan (The Departed) provides the screenplay for the GK Films production, co-starring Ray Winstone and Danny Huston.



The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
20th Century Fox presents this family comedy following a star hockey player's (Dwayne Johnson) temporary transformation into a full-fledged tooth fairy as penalty for discouraging a young fan. Director Michael Lembeck (The Santa Clause 2 and 3) helms the family comedy, based on a screenplay by veteran comedic writers Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, with additional writing provided by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia. Ashley Judd and Julie Andrews co-star in the Blumhouse and Mayhem Pictures production.

I Love You, Goodbye

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Derek Ramsay, Angelica Panganiban
Romance, Drama • Rated NR

The Spy Next Door

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jackie Chan, George Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG

The Book of Eli

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman
Action • Rated R

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Mon thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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Super Bowl TV spot brings Leno, Letterman together

NEW YORK (AP)—Super Bowl viewers were rubbing their eyes over a TV spot pairing CBS late-night host David Letterman with longtime NBC rival Jay Leno, plus Oprah Winfrey.

Aired early Sunday in the CBS-aired game, the ad depicted Letterman and Leno glumly sharing a couch watching the Super Bowl, with Winfrey between them trying to make peace.

The spot revisits a promo from the 2007 Super Bowl with Letterman and Winfrey watching the big game.

In the new spot, Letterman grumbles, "This is the worst Super Bowl party ever."

Leno replies that Dave's "just saying that because I'm here."

The spot was secretly taped last week at New York City's Ed Sullivan Theatre, home of Letterman's "Late Show."

Next month, Leno returns to "The Tonight Show" as Letterman's rival.

Members of Russia's Bolshoi to perform in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Several leading members of Russia's famed Bolshoi ballet will perform with their Cuban counterparts during a visit to Havana next week.

Cuba's state-run media says it will be the first time in three decades that the renowned troupe performs on the island.

The Communist party daily Granma reported Sunday that the performance will take place next Saturday during Havana's international book fair, which this year is being sponsored by Russia.

The dancers, including Elena Andrienko, Ruslan Skvorsto, Ana Antonicheva and Dimitri Belogolovstsev, will be directed by Alicia Alonso, the 89-year-old grande dame of Cuban dance.

The Cuban-Russian performance will include scenes from such classics as "Swan Lake," "Giselle" and "Carmen."

Daughtry brings Saints, Colts fans together

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—They are on opposing sides, but Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints fans found something to bond over at the Super Bowl on Sunday—a Daughtry concert.

Black and gold mixed with Colts blue as the rockers performed before the game. Lead singer Chris Daughtry joked that he was able to bring together a rowdy group.

He said: "There was a lot of segregation ... a lot of fights getting ready to break out."

Guitarist Josh Steely interjected: "He eased that crowd though."

While The Who is the main entertainment for the Super Bowl, performing at the halftime show, and Carrie Underwood and Queen Latifah are singing the national anthem and "America the Beautiful" before kickoff respectively, there was still other entertainment at the game. Besides Daughtry, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Steve Winwood performed.

Chris Daughtry said the biggest challenge for the band, who performed several songs including the hit "Home," was not winning over a crowd more interested in football than music, but getting themselves hyped up so early in the day.

Who Dat? Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise, and Demi, Dat Who

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—The cry of "Who Dat" wasn't all about the New Orleans Saints at the Super Bowl—it was also heard by onlookers as cameras flashed at the sight of A-list celebrities at the big game, including Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise with kids in tow.

Sometime New Orleans resident Pitt was escorted into the game on a golf cart moments before it began. The bearded Pitt was with son Maddox and shouted out his allegiance to "Who Dat" nation before the Saints big win over the Colts.

AP

Actor Ashton Kutcher and wife, actress Demi Moore are seen on the sidelines before the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game between the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

Cruise just went into the stadium like other ticket holders, up an escalator with daughter Suri in his arms.

Demi More and Ashton Kutcher were on the sidelines before kickoff, avoiding cameras—even though they were inches from their face.

'Dear John' bumps 'Avatar' with $32.4M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A sci-fi love story has given way to an earthbound romance at the box office, livening up typically slow times at theaters over Super Bowl weekend.

Released by Sony's Screen Gems banner, "Dear John" debuted as the No. 1 movie with $32.4 million, knocking off "Avatar" after seven weekends in first place, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"It is very cool to know that it was our movie that audiences just totally embraced and made No. 1 for the weekend," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony. As for runaway blockbuster "Avatar," he quipped, "I think they're going to be fine in the long run."

"Avatar" slipped to No. 2 with $23.6 million, raising its domestic total to $630.1 million. Directed by James Cameron, 20th Century Fox's "Avatar" surpassed his own "Titanic," which had held the domestic revenue record at $600.8 million.

With a record $2.2 billion worldwide, "Avatar" also has soared past the $1.8 billion "Titanic" took in globally.

Factoring in today's higher admission prices, however, "Avatar" has sold fewer tickets than "Titanic."

"Avatar" had been No. 1 domestically longer than any movie since 1997's "Titanic," which held on at first place for 15 weekends. The studio was unconcerned that "Avatar" finally fell out of the top spot.

"It had to happen sometime," said 20th Century Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston. "There's nothing that could disappoint me with this movie."

By the eighth weekend, most Hollywood movies have long since dropped out of the top 10 rankings.

"Avatar" still is going strong after eight weeks, with the added luster of a monthlong buildup to the Academy Awards on March 7. Following the example of Oscar champ "Titanic," "Avatar" tied for the lead at the Academy Awards with nine nominations and is a front-runner to win best picture.

Fox executives would not speculate what number "Avatar" eventually might hit at the box office.

"Who knows what that is? It just keeps on going," Livingston said.

The weekend's other new wide release, Lionsgate's spy story "From Paris With Love," opened at No. 3 with $8.1 million. The movie stars John Travolta and Jonathan Rhys Meyers as CIA men trying to crack a terrorist plot.

Fox Searchlight's acclaimed country-music tale "Crazy Heart" expanded from narrow release and broke into the top 10, coming in at No. 8 with $3.7 million. Jeff Bridges and Maggie Gyllenhaal have acting Oscar nominations for the film, which follows a boozy country star trying to turn his life around.

While "Avatar" features a human-alien romance light-years away, "Dear John" centers on a long-distance love story between a soldier (Channing Tatum) and his sweetheart (Amanda Seyfried) back home.

"DearJohn" had a record opening for Super Bowl weekend, topping the $31.1 million debut for "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert" in 2008.

The movie was based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks, whose Hollywood adaptations such as "The Notebook" and "A Walk to Remember" have been steady draws for women. Female crowds made up 84 percent of the audience for "Dear John," according to Sony.

Sparks "creates these stories that really pull at your heartstrings, and certainly that may be first and foremost for women rather than men, though I think a few of us have hearts, too," Bruer said. "But his stories really resonate and are very compelling for women."

That bodes well for the movie over Valentine's Day weekend, said Geoffrey Ammer, head of marketing for Relativity Media, which produced "Dear John." Valentine's weekend draws big date crowds, with women often picking which film to see.

Business on Sunday was predictably slow as football fans watched the Super Bowl instead of going to the movies. But "Dear John" already exceeded industry expectations with $26.2 million on Friday and Saturday.

"Super Bowl weekend isn't about men. It's about women," said Paul Dergarabedian, boxoffice analyst for Hollywood.com. "This counter-programming strategy just absolutely works, the female audience propelling a movie to unprecedented heights."

Hollywood could use more fresh hits like "Dear John" if it hopes to match 2009's record box office pace. The first couple of weeks this year, "Avatar" had revenue and attendance running well ahead of last year.

But revenues have now declined for four straight weekends. So far in 2010, domestic revenues are at $1.2 billion, 1.5 percent ahead of last year's, according to Hollywood.com.

Factoring in higher ticket prices this year, though, movie attendance is down 0.5 percent.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Dear John**," $32.4 million.
2. "**Avatar**," $23.6 million.
3. "**From Paris With Love**," $8.1 million.
4. "**Edge of Darkness,**" $7 million.
5. "**The Tooth Fairy**," $6.5 million.
6. "**When in Rome**," $5.5 million.
7. "**The Book of Eli**," $4.8 million.
8. "**Crazy Heart**," $3.7 million.
9. "**Legion**," $3.4 million.
10. "**Sherlock Holmes**," $2.6 million.

The best birthday present is to grow older every year

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: "49 and Holding" (Dec. 5), who doesn't want her daughter to give her a 50th birthday party, needs to grow up and learn to celebrate life instead of hiding from the fact that she's growing older. She is aging because she's alive—and what a blessing that is.

I lived through the worst years of the AIDS epidemic and witnessed the deaths of more than 200 friends—all of whom would have loved to celebrate a 50th birthday. My mother died at 82 and was grateful for every year, as am I.

Life's milestones warrant a party. Those who don't want to celebrate life and the birthdays that come with it should consider the alternative.

BRUCE C., ATLANTA

DEAR BRUCE: My readers agreed that "Holding" should quit whining and enjoy life because everyone isn't so fortunate. Growing old is a gift, and it sure does beat the alternative! Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Sorry, 50 is NOT the new 30. Fifty is 50! One of the reasons "Holding" may have issues with aging is this obsession with youth. Youth is definitely transitory, but that doesn't mean one's health, beauty and vibrancy vanish. "Holding" has every right to feel as she does, but I hope she won't continue sitting on the sidelines of life.

By the way, I'll be celebrating my 51st birthday in a few days. My daughter is taking me to Las Vegas to paint the town ... not red (too youthful) but crimson. You definitely DO get better as you age!

JACQUELINE W., CHANDLER, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: I admit that I felt much as "Holding" did until my sister told me that, for her, turning 50 was an exceptionally freeing experience. It's true. At that age, I realized I wasn't going to be the CEO of the company I worked for, that I had a job I enjoyed, that my family was there for me in whatever I chose to pursue, and that there were places on this planet I wanted to visit (and have). I have found it difficult finding a downside to being 50.

Age is in your head, Abby. I've met 10-year-olds who are eons past 50, and 70-year-olds who are as curious, inquisitive and active as people far younger. So I say, go for it proudly.

PAST 50 AND FABULOUS

DEAR ABBY: Everyone regards aging differently, but why be depressed over something you can't control? When I turned 50, I decided I could either be depressed and drink myself silly or celebrate the milestone.

I declared to my family, friends and co-workers that it was my year and my goal was to do 50 things I had never done before —or hadn't done in a long time. I reconnected with neglected friends, went on my first cruise, stayed in a haunted hotel. While I didn't quite make it to 50 things (I made it to 30), it was fun trying, and everyone had a blast in the process.

50-PLUS AND DEALING WITH IT

DEAR ABBY: At 36 I was diagnosed with cancer. My son was only 5. As radiation treatments pulsed through my body in the hope of giving me more life, I wondered if those would be his last memories of me.

Fast forward 13 years. I am 49 and holding—with one major difference. I look forward to each and every birthday. In a few months, I'll turn 50. And do you know what looks even better than my 50th birthday? My 60th!

Birthdays are a celebration of life, a reminder that we have the good fortune to be with the people who mean the most to us.

THANKFUL FOR EACH AND EVERY DAY

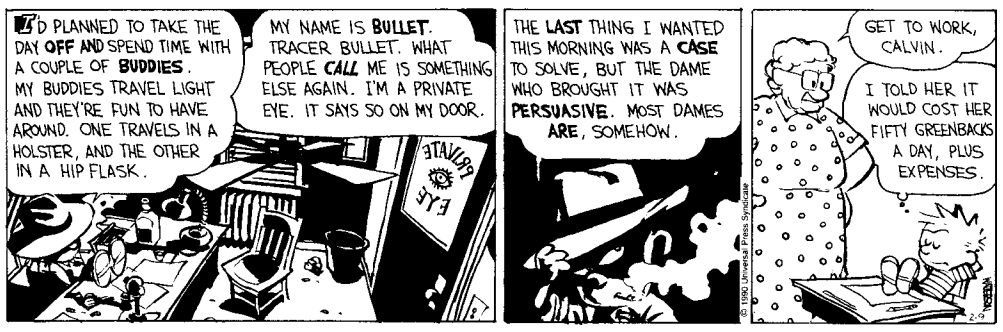
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'D PLANNED TO TAKE THE DAY OFF AND SPEND TIME WITH A COUPLE OF BUDDIES. MY BUDDIES TRAVEL LIGHT AND THEY'RE FUN TO HAVE AROUND. ONE TRAVELS IN A HOLSTER, AND THE OTHER IN A HIP FLASK.
MY NAME IS BULLET. TRACER BULLET. WHAT PEOPLE CALL ME IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. I'M A PRIVATE EYE. IT SAYS SO ON MY DOOR.
PRIVATE EYE
THE LAST THING I WANTED THIS MORNING WAS A CASE TO SOLVE, BUT THE DAME WHO BROUGHT IT WAS PERSUASIVE. MOST DAMES ARE, SOMEHOW.
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GET TO WORK, CALVIN.
I TOLD HER IT WOULD COST HER FIFTY GREENBACKS A DAY, PLUS EXPENSES.
2-9

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HONEY, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I WANTED TO QUIT MY JOB...
...TAKE UP THE GUITAR, PRACTICING 10 HOURS A DAY FOR A YEAR...
...AND THEN APPLY TO THE ROLLING STONES... TO TAKE OVER FOR KEITH RICHARDS.
HE HAS TO BE CLOSE TO RETIREMENT AGE.
I'D SAY POOR KEITH LOOKS LIKE HE MIGHT HAVE KIDS AT RETIREMENT AGE.
2-9
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Annoys
5 Possess
8 Engrossed
12 Minimal change
13 Actor McBride
14 Shrek is one
15 Bloodhound's clue
16 Rowing team's commander
18 Harmful
20 Contract's conditions
21 Christmas tree, often
22 Thesaurus wd.
23 Judge's prop
26 Steve Martin's take on the Cyrano story
30 Praise in verse
31 Whatever number
32 Scull tool
33 Blood poisoning
36 Fencing move
38 Disencumber
39 Corral
40 Polygon calculations
43 Bill Amend's comic strip
47 Sports-page summary
49 — -tat-tat
50 Actress Falco
51 Owns
52 "Do — others ..."
53 Reply to "Shall we?"
54 Pigs' digs
55 Hollywood clashers

DOWN
1 PC picture
2 Start over
3 Kentucky fort
4 Discord
5 Happen
6 "Knock, knock. — there?"
7 Put the kibosh on
8 Ivanhoe's love
9 Culture medium
10 Stiffly neat
11 Sawbucks
17 Charon's river
19 Lubricate
22 Sauce source
23 Obtained
24 Commotion
25 Irritate
26 Genetic messenger
27 Opposite of "oui"
28 Kvetch
29 Before
31 Help
34 Obliterates
35 Catchall abbr.
36 Superman foe
37 False
39 Sentimentalized writings
40 First victim
41 Took the bus
42 Egress
43 "Animal House" group
44 Pealed
45 Director Preminger
46 New Mexico art colony
48 Surprise cries

Solution time: 21 mins.

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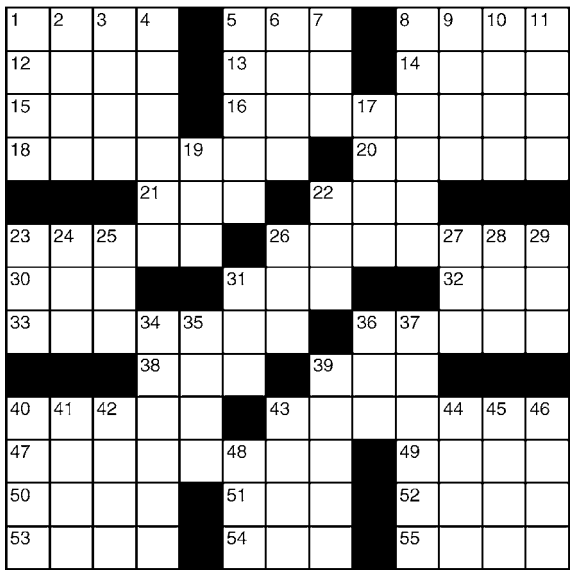
Yesterday's answer 2-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyson Houseman, 20; David Gallagher, 25; Zhang Ziyi, 31; Mia Farrow, 65

Happy Birthday: Look beyond your normal circle or familiar locations and you will find something to help you choose a new path. It's time to open up and share your plans with people who have an interest and more experience and knowledge. Your adaptability will help you when things get tough. Strive to reach goals that you have been denied in the past. Your numbers are 5, 11, 24, 27, 36, 38, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Check everything you do twice. You are bound to make costly mistakes if you aren't careful. A poor partnership will start you thinking about ways to correct the situation. Before you jump into something too fast, do your research. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Whether it's a vacation or taking a course to enrich your mind or teach you a new skill, it will turn out well and lead to new friendships. Don't limit what you can do because of a lack of confidence. If someone tries to discourage you, proceed with your plans anyway. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a greater interest in contracts, investments and debts. A job that offers you more creativity will be made available. You will meet an unusually interesting individual through work or an industry-related event. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be drawn to personal concerns that involve partnerships. Take a serious look at the possible repercussions and make some changes yourself and where your associates are concerned—but within reason. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Aggressive behavior will not help you accomplish your goals. Instead, work quietly behind the scenes, away from those who will slow you down and hold you back. Don't take on someone else's job. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do something nice for yourself. A change made to an investment will be beneficial if you take control and handle what's happening. Expect a more experienced individual to try to undermine you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stick to your morals and your principles. Problems at home will leave you in an uncertain position. You can turn negativity around by surrounding yourself with people who are like-minded and enjoy the same events and activities you do. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't leave anything to chance, especially if it might affect your personal life. Deception is apparent when dealing with contractors or anyone making promises. Reliability will be hard to find when dealing with others. Prepare to do the bulk of the work yourself. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Concerns regarding your position will arise. Don't get emotional about something you cannot change. Concentrate on ways to draw greater interest to what you have to offer. A trip will pay off in terms of contracts. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do your best to fix anything that may turn into a costly venture and avoid anyone who wants to disrupt your plans. Someone with authority may give you a hard time. Preparation and organization will be your saving grace. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to pressure by someone trying to take advantage of your good nature or vulnerability. Pay your debts but don't pay for someone else. A relationship may not be as it appears. If you are unsure how someone feels, ask. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A window of opportunity will open, allowing you to move into a much better professional position. Don't be afraid to put a little pressure on someone who has promised you something. Be ready to say no to anyone asking for too much. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic and embrace the unique and unusual. You have big ideas and will do whatever it takes to reach your goals. You are creative and entrepreneurial.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

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4	2				8			3
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			4		2		5	8
				7				
6	9		1		5			
		6		1			7	9
5			3				2	6
						5		

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	4	1	7	8	2	6	3
1	6	3	4	2	9	8	7	5
7	2	8	6	5	3	4	1	9
4	3	2	8	6	7	9	5	1
5	9	7	3	4	1	6	2	8
8	1	6	2	9	5	7	3	4
6	4	5	9	1	2	3	8	7
2	8	1	7	3	4	5	9	6
3	7	9	5	8	6	1	4	2

Difficulty Level ★ 2/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE MIKE HUCKABEE SHOW **Solution: 7 letters**

C	O	V	E	R	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T
A	I	C	A	U	T	H	O	R	I	G	H	T	S	N
D	D	O	H	M	B	R	E	T	S	I	N	I	M	E
I	A	M	S	R	E	L	P	M	I	S	V	E	N	D
R	R	M	O	A	I	R	E	A	V	I	E	W	A	I
O	(H)	E	O	N	S	S	I	V	T	T	E	E	C	S
L	(O)	N	E	M	O	N	T	C	I	S	U	M	I	E
F	(S)	T	G	N	E	L	A	M	A	L	S	A	L	R
O	(T)	A	S	U	I	N	O	K	A	N	S	I	B	P
X	F	T	R	J	I	M	T	G	R	S	I	L	U	R
N	U	O	S	A	A	T	O	U	U	A	I	S	P	O
E	T	R	J	O	H	N	A	N	M	E	S	T	E	T
W	U	L	I	T	T	L	E	R	O	C	K	E	R	S
S	R	E	P	O	R	T	S	T	D	A	V	I	D	A
R	E	D	A	E	L	Y	T	S	E	F	I	L	M	P

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Activist, American, Arkansas, Author, Christmas, Commentator, Cover, David, E-mails, Florida, Fox News, Future, Guitar, Host, Issue, Janet, John, Leader, Lifestyle, Little Rockers, Live, Meet, Mike, Minister, Momentum, Monologue, Music, Nominee, Pastor, President, Radio, Reports, Republican, Right, Sarah, Simple, Television, View

Yesterday's Answer: Avionics

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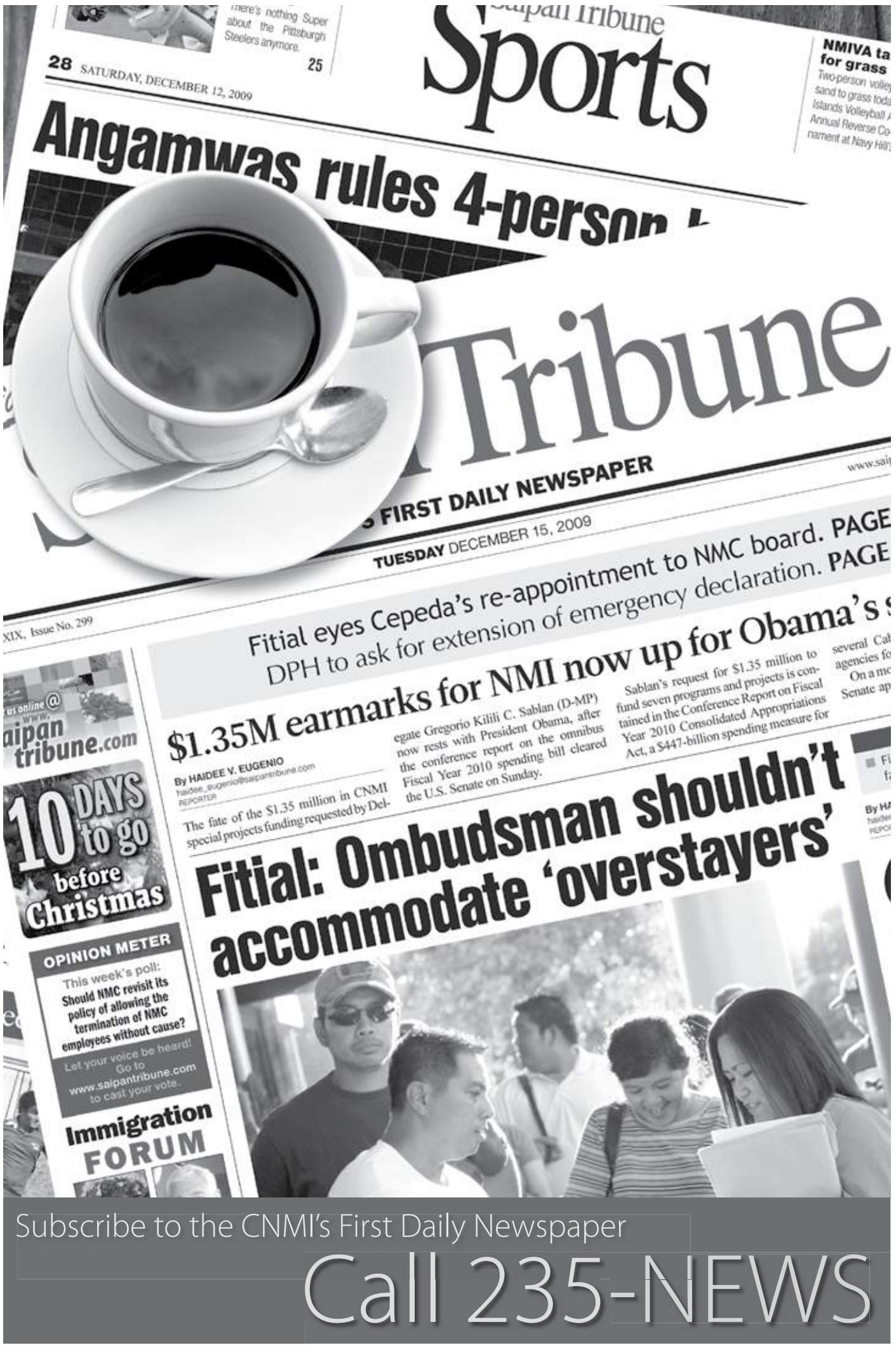
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Find today's solution in this section

Magic use 19-0 burst in 3rd to top Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—Vince Carter led a 19-0 surge in the third quarter and finished with 20 points as the Orlando Magic beat Boston 96-89 on Sunday, moving ahead of the Celtics and into second place in the Eastern Conference.

Carter scored nine points during a rally that began after Rajon Rondo's 3-pointer gave the Celtics a 60-51 lead with 7:17 left in the third quarter—Boston's fourth and final field goal of the period.

The Magic turned a 51-40 halftime deficit into a 76-62 lead after the third and stayed in front by at least five points the rest of the way.

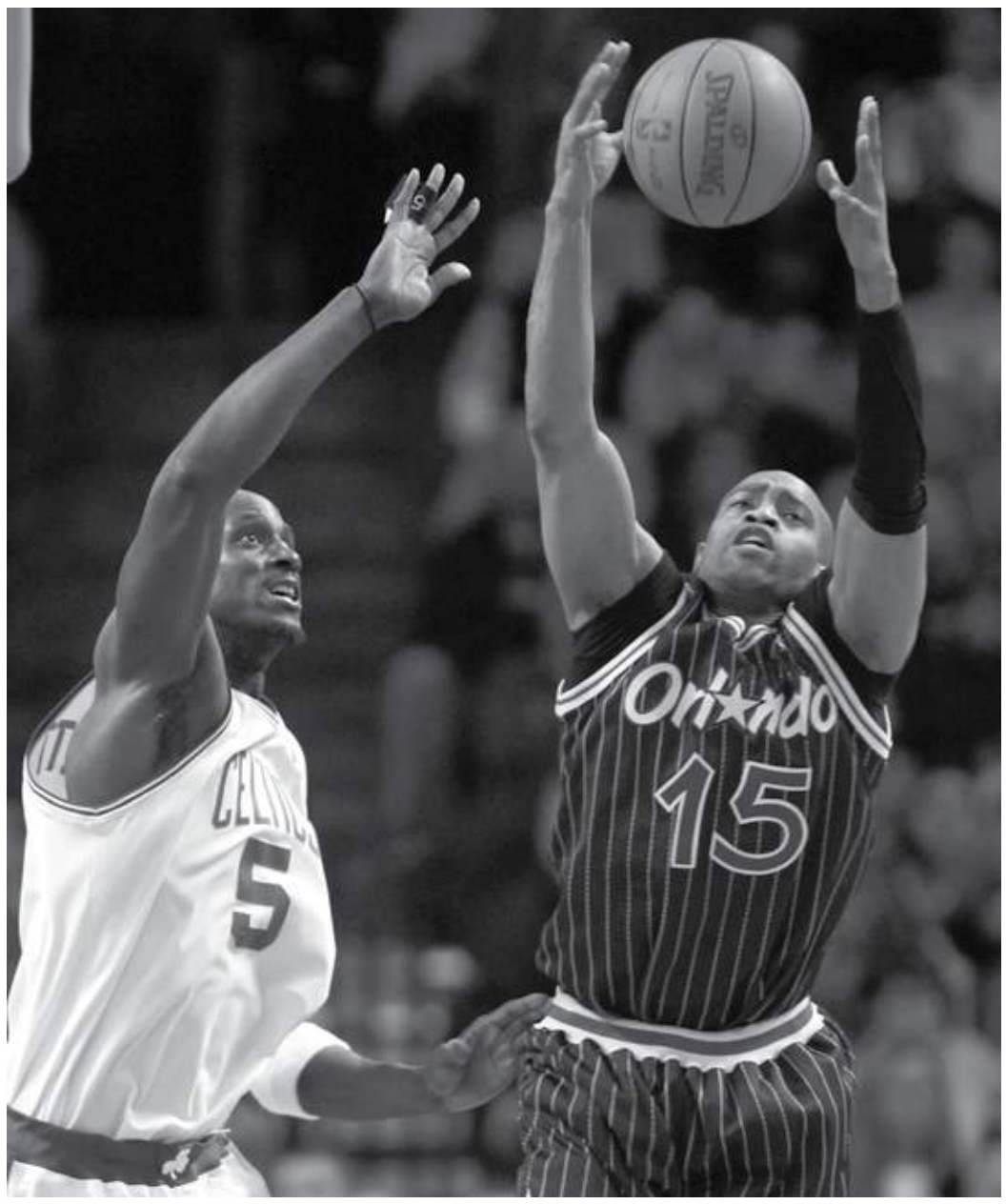
Dwight Howard had 16 points and 13 rebounds for Orlando.

Rondo scored 17 points and Ray Allen added 13 for the Celtics.

The Celtics made a late run with seven straight points that cut the lead to 94-89. But Rashard Lewis just beat the 24-second buzzer with a short driving shot that made it 96-89 with 18 seconds to go.

The Magic (34-17) rebounded from a loss Friday night to Washington in which they blew a 21-point lead and moved one game ahead of the Celtics (32-17).

Boston lost despite getting two important players back. Paul Pierce, their leading scorer, returned after missing two games with a strain on the top of his left foot and scored 13 points. Key substitute Marquis Daniels sat out the previous 29 games following surgery for a torn ligament in his left thumb and finished with eight points.



AP

Orlando Magic's Vince Carter (15) grabs a rebound in front of Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett (5) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010, in Boston.

Carter started the 19-0 spurt with a 3-pointer. Howard then picked up his fourth foul with 5:58 left in the quarter but remained in the game, and Carter followed with a three-point play. Then the Magic, the most prolific 3-point shooting team in the NBA, made three straight—by Lewis, Carter and Lewis again—for a 66-60 lead. Howard then dunked an alley-oop pass from Matt Barnes and Jameer Nelson followed with a driving layup.

Tony Allen finally scored for the Celtics on two free throws, cutting Orlando's lead to 70-62 with 1:33 left in the third. But the Magic got the final six points of the quarter on two free throws by Lewis and a layup and two free throws by Jason Williams—giving them 25 of the last 27 points in the period.

The Celtics led 34-29 when Howard picked up his third foul and left the game with 8:26 left in the second quarter. The Magic tied it at 34 on a 3-pointer by Carter and a layup by Williams.

Then Boston went on a 12-2 run, starting with Rasheed Wallace's basket from the left corner and ending with Pierce's 3-pointer off a behind-the-back pass from Rondo. That gave the Celtics a 46-36 lead with 1:59 left in the half and they led 51-40 at intermission.

Kevin Garnett, scoreless in the first half, scored Boston's first three baskets in the third quarter to maintain the 11-point lead at 57-46. But Orlando went on a 14-3 run, tying the game at 60 on a 3-pointer by Lewis with 4:36 left in the period.

Raptors 115, Kings 104

At Toronto, Chris Bosh had 36 points and 11 rebounds, Andrea Bargnani scored 22 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the Kings 115-104 on Sunday afternoon, extending Sacramento's losing streak to six games.

Hedo Turkoglu and Antoine Wright each scored 16 points as Toronto topped 100 points for the 16th consecutive game and won its seventh straight home game.

Kevin Martin scored 24 points and Spencer Hawes had 14 for the Kings, who have won just three of their past 20 and are 3-22 on the road.

Donte Greene scored 13 points while Tyreke Evans and Andres Nocioni each had 11 for Sacramento.

Bosh made 14 of 18 field goal attempts and went 8 for 11 from the foul line as the Raptors won for the 13th time in 14 home games.

Sacramento's Sean May made two jumpers to open the fourth quarter, giving the Kings a 91-84 lead, but Toronto scored the next eight points, including a three-point play by Bosh and a breakaway dunk by Sonny Weems, to lead 92-91 with 10:04 remaining.

It stayed close until Bosh made a layup and a pair of free throws and Wright sandwiched a jumper and a corner 3 around a free throw by Greene, putting Toronto up 105-97 with 4:12 left.

Toronto welcomed Turkoglu and DeMar DeRozan back to the starting lineup after injuries. Turkoglu wore a mask to protect the fractured orbital bone that kept him out of the past two games, while DeRozan had missed five games with a sprained right ankle. Jose Calderon, who missed one game with a right ankle sprain, also returned, but Marco Belinelli was scratched with a sore left ankle.

Turkoglu had been reluctant to wear the mask but changed his mind Saturday. He was hot early, scoring nine points in the first as Toronto made nine of its first 11 field goal attempts.

FBI investigated letters sent to Pistons' Daly

DETROIT (AP)—The FBI investigated a series of threatening letters sent to Detroit Pistons coach Chuck Daly at the height of his team's success during the 1989-90 "Bad Boys" championship era, newly released government records show.

The 67 pages, obtained by The Associated Press as part of a Freedom of Information Act request, detail how federal agents in Detroit ordered fingerprint, handwriting and even psycholinguistic analyses as part of an effort to determine who sent the correspondences.

Daly's teams played a punishing, in-your-face brand of defense that angered opposing players and coaches, and—based on the content of the letters examined by the FBI—fans, too.

One letter, mailed from Cleveland and postmarked April 24, 1989, arrived about two months after Cavaliers guard Mark Price suffered a concussion following a Rick Mahorn elbow and three months after Cleveland's Brad Daugherty and Detroit's Bill Laimbeer had an on-court fistfight.

"God made me realize that YOU, not Laimbeer, Mahorn or any of the others are the one possessed by (Satan)," the author wrote in the one-page handwritten letter addressed to "Mr. Chuck Daly."

Daly, a Hall of Famer who died in May at the age of 78, gave the letter to team officials, who in turn notified NBA security in New York. The league advised the Pistons to turn it over to the FBI.

Federal agents interviewed Daly and team personnel and submitted the letter for various tests. A psycholinguistic analysis determined the author likely "has had previous psychiatric hospitalizations and/or is currently on outpatient status," but lacked "the capacity to carry out any form of planned action."

Another letter, this one typewritten and postmarked Royal Oak, Mich., on Feb. 16, 1990, also was addressed to Daly and claimed the Pistons didn't "know the meaning of the word `sportsmanship'" and would "pay dearly."

The FBI ran a fingerprint test and determined the model of typewriter used, but as with the first letter, couldn't locate a suspect.

In each case, Hal Helterhoff, special agent in charge of the FBI in Michigan, wrote a letter to the U.S. attorney's office in Detroit to inform prosecutors that the agency hadn't been able to ID an author.

Current FBI spokeswoman Sandra Berchtold declined to comment on the letters sent to Daly. FBI files become a public record when the subject dies.

In Daly's day, the Pistons—thanks to their physical style of play—were perceived as villains by some opposing fans, and bitter rivalries grew with fellow Eastern Conference foes in Boston, Chicago and Cleveland.

Things got so bad that, ahead of a Cavs-Pistons game on March 3, 1989, someone called Cleveland coach Lenny Wilkens in his suburban Detroit hotel room and threatened his life. Wilkens notified NBA officials, and the league provided extra security for him during the game.

"It's sad. This is the first time anything like this ever happened to me," Wilkens said at the time. "It makes me nervous to have all these people around me."

It seems, though, that the threats against Daly weren't common knowledge in the team's locker room.

Hall of Fame Pistons guard Joe Dumars, now the team's president of basketball operations, said he "never heard of it."

Mahorn, currently a Pistons radio announcer, also had no recollection of the threats against his coach.

"I have no clue about that," he said.

Then-general manager Jack McCloskey, now retired and living in Georgia, remembers receiving his own letters and other threats during that time, usually over trades he had made.

"I can remember I stopped at a red light, and I had just traded Adrian Dantley," McCloskey said. "Two guys stopped next to me, recognized me and just had the finger gun. They did that. But when it all came out in championships, people forget it."

Those who knew Daly said he had a special charisma that made it difficult for people to stay mad at him.

Charles Barkley, whom Daly coached to Olympic gold in 1992, has said he "never understood how a great man and nice guy coached the Bad Boys."

Could labor issues overshadow NBA All-Star week in Dallas?

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL's party week was briefly interrupted by a sobering message about the league's labor situation.

Now it could be the NBA's turn.

The league's collective bargaining agreement also will expire in 2011, and management and the players' association will meet next weekend during the All-Star events in Dallas as they try to negotiate a new one.

Indications are it won't be easy. CBSSports.com, citing a person familiar with the document, reported that the first proposal the league sent the union last week called for a reduction of the players' share of the basketball-related income from 57 percent to below 50, as well as reductions in the length and amount of maximum value contracts, and elements of a "hard" salary cap to replace the current system that forces teams exceeding the cap to pay a luxury tax.

Neither the league nor the union have commented about the proposal, but it will surely be a topic when commissioner David Stern, and perhaps players' association executive director Billy Hunter, meets with the media on Saturday.

Last week before the Super Bowl in Miami, DeMaurice Smith, the executive director of the NFL's players union, strongly warned of a potential lockout. He called the chances of football not being played in 2011 after the league's CBA expires a "14" on a scale of 1 to 10.

Stern said he will not ask Hunter to avoid saying anything similar that would spoil the good times in Dallas, where the league is expecting Cowboys Stadium to host the largest crowd ever to watch a basketball game.

"There's nothing that I could or would do with respect to Billy's ability to say anything," Stern told The Associated Press. "That's his job, that's his obligation and we understand it. We could go to the table and switch sides and argue the other side. That's just the reality of it and so eventually there will be a deal, and we hope it's going to be sooner rather than later."

Stricker wins at Riviera, goes to No. 2 in world

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In a tournament everyone expected him to win, Steve Stricker was trying not to lose.

Instead of firing at flags and trying to make birdies, which allowed him to build a six-shot lead at Riviera, he suddenly found himself playing it safe and trying not to make bogeys. Instead of having a chance to break the 25-year-old tournament scoring record, he feared matching a PGA Tour record for blowing the biggest lead.

The Northern Trust Open ultimately ended Sunday the way everyone thought it would—Stricker in tears after another victory.

"I just knew it was going to be hard," Stricker said after closing with a 1-under 70 for a two-shot victory over Luke Donald.

Northern Trust Open

AP

Steve Stricker kisses the trophy as the winner of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

"You're playing a different game than what you normally play. You played scared—at least I did there for a while."

Back-to-back birdies at the turn settled him down. Another clutch putt for par on the 15th hole essentially clinched it for him.

Stricker won for the fourth time in his last 15 starts, moving up to No. 2 in the world for the second time in his career. It was his eighth career victory, and the eighth time he couldn't make it through his TV interview without wiping tears from his eyes.

This time, all it took was a reminder of where he was four years ago, when he lost his PGA Tour card.

The final round felt as though it lasted just as long.

His lead was cut in half after four holes after Stricker missed a short par putt. It was down to two shots when Donald made a 10-foot birdie on the fifth hole. It might have vanished entirely had Donald not missed birdie putts about the same length on the next two holes.

"If I got really hot with the putter, I could have maybe caught Steve," said Donald, who closed with a 66. "He played nicely coming down the stretch, and I think he was a deserved winner. But at least I gave him a little run for his money."

Stricker finished at 16-under 268 and earned $1.152 million to go over $25 million for his career.

Dustin Johnson, who shot a 74 on Saturday to fall out of the lead, made one last run and got within three shots. He shot a 66 and tied for third with J.B. Holmes, who closed with a 67.

Stricker built his lead back to four shots on the back nine when he started playing cautiously and saw it start slipping away. Then came the 15th, when he missed his 4-iron to the left and chipped poorly to 10 feet, only to make his biggest putt of the round.

"My father-in-law always says there's a defining moment when you're going to win a golf tournament," Stricker said. "And I think that was it right there. It allowed me to keep a three-shot lead going into the last three holes."

Phil Mickelson, trying to become the first player to win three straight years at Riviera, had a 73 and finished 14 shots behind.

Even as he left the course Saturday night leading by five shots, Stricker said he expected a long, tough day.

The long day came from having to return in the morning darkness to finish off his third round. With temperatures in the 40s before the sun climbed over Sunset Boulevard, he rolled in a 30-foot birdie putt on the 15th, hit 7-iron to 4 feet for birdie on the 16th and led by seven shots until a bogey on the 18th, his first in 32 holes. Stricker completed a 66 for a six-shot lead.

The tough part was finishing it off.

Stricker knew he was in for a battle when he had 5-iron to clear the bunker at the par-5 opening hole. Instead, he took 4-iron to play it safe, went just over the green and failed to make birdie.

Stricker didn't have another birdie putt inside 20 feet until the eighth hole, but he converted them. Donald, meanwhile, had birdie chances inside 20 feet over the opening eight holes, but only made three of them.

Stricker also had a big lead at the Western Open in 1996, when he went on to win by eight shots.

"It was so long ago I couldn't really remember how I handled it," Stricker said. "It's just difficult playing with that sort of lead. A lot of guys were making birdies and applying pressure. I'm just happier than heck to be here and be the champion."

This is the second time Stricker has gone to No. 2 in the world—he also got there in September after winning in Boston—although he likely still would have to win at three more times to catch Tiger Woods, who is out indefinitely as he tries to save his marriage.

Could he imagine himself at No. 1.

"I don't allow that," Stricker said. "We all know who the best player in the world is, and I'll just continue to do what I do, and that's practice hard and work at it and try to improve."

Lincecum ready for arbitration hearing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tim Lincecum is prepared to hear some harsh criticism in an arbitration hearing with the San Francisco Giants—perhaps even delving into his offseason pot bust.

The two-time reigning NL Cy Young Award winner is asking for a record $13 million, while the Giants offered $8 million when the sides exchanged numbers last month.

"The business side is what we're scraping at right now," Lincecum said Friday, appearing at AT&T Park ahead of Saturday's FanFest. "Going to arbitration, everybody knows what can happen and the feelings that can get hurt. I'm just trying to keep an open mind. If anybody knows my flaws, I do. If they're going to point them out and that has to happen, then whatever. I know I've got to get better. I don't feel like my feelings are hurt."

Lincecum is seeking the richest contract ever awarded in arbitration, surpassing the $10 million that Alfonso Soriano (2006) and Francisco Rodriguez (2008) got after losing cases and Ryan Howard received after winning in 2008.

Lincecum's hearing is scheduled for this month in St. Petersburg, Fla. He plans to attend.

"With the two Cy Youngs, it just throws a curveball in the mix," Lincecum said. "People were saying I could ask for pretty much anything."

Two other top pitchers just received five-year contracts, with Detroit's Justin Verlander getting $80 million and Seattle's Felix Hernandez $78 million.

"At some point. something's going to get figured out," Lincecum said. "Either way, I try not to have ill feelings about anything. I just try to come out here and the whole purpose is to try to help the team win. It's not about a grudge match. When it gets finalized, it will be good. I just try to take in what I can in the experience and not be too oblivious to everything but also not getting too involved, either. I let my agent do his job and I'll just do mine."

For Lincecum, that means throwing off a mound for the first time this offseason and completing a couple of bullpen sessions before reporting Feb. 17 to the team's Scottsdale, Ariz., facility. After lunch Friday, he headed outside to play some light catch with fellow starter Barry Zito and closer Brian Wilson on a partly sunny, overcast Bay Area day.

Manager Bruce Bochy doesn't expect his ace to be distracted by his contract dealings.

"He's going to have to put it aside," Bochy said. "Timmy, I really think he understands the process. This is a business. It has to be separated from what you do on the field. Tim realizes that. Whatever happens, what number, who wins, it cannot distract what you're paid to do: play the game to the best of your ability. This is unprecedented with what Timmy's done and the numbers that are out there. It's created a lot of interest in the baseball world. Everybody's curious to see how this thing shakes out. It's a win-win. Either way, he's going to be fine."

It's unclear whether the Giants will bring up Lincecum's legal trouble.

There is language listed in the criteria for arbitration hearings dealing with "special qualities of leadership and public appeal" and the "existence of any physical or mental defects on the part of the player." Lincecum figures it all will be fair game.

On Jan. 19, the same day salary numbers were exchanged, Lincecum agreed to pay $513 to resolve marijuana charges against him in Washington state.

"If they do (bring it up), the one thing I said is I would not let it happen again," Lincecum said. "It's part of my past. I'm going to move on. I feel like I've made a step forward from it. I've become a better person for it. I've got to stop making stupid decisions. It's one of those things it's time to grow up now."

Lincecum has been prepped for how to handle the scenario if it does become part of the hearing. He said he's read about what organizations have said to players in the past.

"I'm not going to try to take any ill regard to it at all—try to take it as constructive criticism I suppose," he said.

Lincecum originally faced two misdemeanor charges of marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession stemming from a traffic stop on Oct. 30. The charges were reduced to a civil infraction.

Lincecum appeared in Clark County District Court before Judge Darvin Zimmerman, and Giants managing partner Bill Neukom was in court in a sign of support for Lincecum.

"I didn't have any idea. I walked in and he was sitting there," Lincecum said. "It was kind of a pleasant surprise. It showed the kind of support the Giants give their players. It's great."

He paid a speeding ticket separately.

Lincecum just recently received his second Cy Young Award, and both were in the back of his car for now. He plans to gift the first one to his father, Chris—the one responsible for teaching the pitcher his effective yet funky mechanics.

This winter has been calmer for Lincecum compared to a year ago following his first Cy Young Award and the round of public appearances afterward. This time, he spent time with his French bulldog, Cy, and playing video games.

"It felt like a typical chill offseason," Lincecum said. "I don't do a lot. I'm a homebody."

Even his teammates are curious to see how his case is resolved.

"It will be exciting to see how that situation pans out," starter Matt Cain said.

NEW ORLEANS

From Page 28

with 5:42 remaining. He was 32 for 39 for 288 yards.

A surprise onside kick sparked the Saints' second-half comeback. Their 25th-ranked defense made several key stops, and Tracy Porter's 74-yard interception return on a pass from Manning clinched it.

Manning tried to give chase, but was blocked by a New Orleans defender and fell awkwardly as the cornerback raced by. The four-time NFL MVP forlornly walked to the sideline as the Big Easy celebrations began.

"It's time for the Saints to celebrate," he said. "It's their field and it's their championship."

An NFL also-ran for much of their 43 years, the Saints' football renaissance, led by Brees and Payton, climaxed with Shockey's touchdown and Lance Moore's 2-point conversion catch, originally ruled incomplete but overturned on Payton's challenge.

Porter's pick, just as dramatic as his interception of Brett Favre's pass to force overtime in the NFC title game, was the game's only turnover. It's one Manning will forever regret.

The Saints (16-3) won three postseason games this winter after winning only two in the previous 42 years. They beat Arizona, Minnesota and Indianapolis (16-3)—all division winners—for their first title, scoring 107 points and allowing only 59.

"We weren't the Aints," Porter said. "We were a team of destiny, a team that can make big plays."

The championship came 4 1/2 years after Katrina ravaged New Orleans, making the Saints nomads for the 2005 season. There even was some doubt they would return, but the NFL refused to abandon the city. The Superdome was repaired and the Saints won the NFC South in '06, their first season with Brees and Payton.

That was the season Manning won his only Super Bowl. He got the Colts off a quick start and had them in front for much of this one, but New Orleans' league-leading offense, which scored 510 points this season, outscored Indy 31-7 after falling behind 10-0. That matched the biggest comeback in a Super Bowl.

Payton held the Vince Lombardi Trophy high over his head and ran into the end zone toward several hundred fans chanting the Saints' rally cry: "Who dat, who dat, who dat say gonna beat dem Saints?"

Nobody can say it now.

"Everybody back in New Orleans gets a piece of this trophy," he said.

"I think I could kiss him," owner Tom Benson said.

Before many of the 74,059 fans got settled following the Who's halftime show, the Saints worked a little football voodoo. Garrett Hartley's onside kick was touched by the Colts' Hank Baskett, then recovered by Chris Reis at the New Orleans 42.

"I just told our guys you've got to make me look good on this," Payton said. "That really becomes like a turnover."

Looking like the NFL's most potent offense, the Saints seized the opportunity to take their first lead. It came on Pierre Thomas' brilliant 16-yard run with a screen pass, capped by a dive into the end zone.

Manning simply shrugged, found Dallas Clark for 45 yards on a 76-yard drive, and Joseph Addai used a spin move a figure skater would envy to score from the 4.

But that was it for Indy.

"I certainly know how it was three years ago when we won," Manning said. "I know the people of New Orleans and the Saints have that same feeling right now."

Hartley, the hero of the NFC title game with his 40-yard field goal in OT, made a 47-yarder later in the third period. After Matt Stover was wide left on a 51-yarder early in the final quarter, Brees led the biggest drive in Saints history.

"We really felt as underdogs we had the better team," Payton said. "To be in that position where maybe a lot of people were picking against us, we liked the spot we were in."

Manning looked sharp on the Colts' first two series, taking them 53 yards to a 38-yard field goal by Stover, at 42 the oldest player in Super Bowl history.

Then Manning led a 96-yard, 11-play drive that appeared almost routine, even though it tied the longest march in a Super Bowl. Addai rushed for 53 yards on the series, and Manning found Pierre Garcon behind backup cornerback Osama Young for the 19-yard score on third down.

New Orleans couldn't match that, but did get a 46-yard field goal by Hartley to make it 10-3. Brees was sacked on third down by All-Pro defensive end Dwight Freeney, who sure looked frisky despite ligament damage in his right ankle that made his availability uncertain for two weeks.

Then Indy's defense, ranked 18th during the season but staunch in the playoffs, really showed some power. After the Saints marched 71 yards, including 40 yards on two receptions by Marques Colston, New Orleans had third-and-goal at the 1. Mike Bell slipped trying to run right behind All-Pro guard Jahri Evans, and Thomas was stacked up at the line by Gary Brackett and Clint Sessions on fourth down.

But the Colts went against type and ran three times, leaving 35 seconds for the league's most prolific offense to get in position for Hartley's 44-yard field goal and a more manageable 10-6 halftime deficit.

Shootout? More like a slowdown. Indy had two three-and-outs and New Orleans had one.

But the points came quickly after halftime—mostly for the Saints.

"Look around the stadium," linebacker Scott Fujita said. "It was like 6- or 7-to-1 (Saints fans). The black and gold just poured into Miami.

"The whole world was behind us. This was bigger than just a game for the Saints. We are the world's team."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	17	.653	—
Toronto	28	23	.549	5
New York	19	31	.380	13 1/2
Philadelphia	19	31	.380	13 1/2
New Jersey	4	46	.080	28 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	34	17	.667	—
Atlanta	32	17	.653	1
Charlotte	24	25	.490	9
Miami	24	27	.471	10
Washington	17	32	.347	16

Central Division

Cleveland	41	11	.788	—
Chicago	24	25	.490	15 1/2
Milwaukee	23	26	.469	16 1/2
Indiana	18	33	.353	22 1/2
Detroit	17	32	.347	22 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	31	19	.620	—
San Antonio	29	20	.592	1 1/2
Houston	27	23	.540	4
New Orleans	27	24	.529	4 1/2
Memphis	26	24	.520	5

Northwest Division

Denver	34	17	.667	—
Utah	31	18	.633	2
Oklahoma City	29	21	.580	4 1/2
Portland	30	23	.566	5
Minnesota	13	38	.255	21

PACIFIC DIVISION

L.A. Lakers	39	13	.750	—
Phoenix	31	21	.596	8
L.A. Clippers	21	29	.420	17
Sacramento	16	34	.320	22
Golden State	13	36	.265	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 96, Boston 89
Toronto 115, Sacramento 104
Northern Trust Open Scores

NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scores Sunday from the Northern Trust Open, a $6.4 million US PGA Tour event at 7,325-yard, par-71 (35-36) Riviera Country Club (FedExCup points in parentheses):

FINAL ROUND

Steve Stricker (500), $1,152,000	67-65-66-70—268
Luke Donald (300), $691,200	68-70-66-66—270
Dustin Johnson (163), $371,200	64-67-74-66—271
J.B. Holmes (163), $371,200	68-69-67-67—271
Paul Goydos (96), $224,800	69-72-68-65—274
Steve Marino (96), $224,800	70-67-69-68—274
Andres Romero (96), $224,800	65-69-70-70—274
George McNeill (96), $224,800	70-69-66-69—274
Ricky Barnes (80), $185,600	66-71-69-69—275
Kevin Na (65), $147,200	72-67-71-66—276
Jason Bohn (65), $147,200	69-75-67-65—276
Ernie Els (65), $147,200	68-70-70-68—276
Alex Prugh (65), $147,200	71-69-66-70—276
Kevin Stadler (65), $147,200	65-71-69-71—276
Marc Leishman (54), $102,400	71-71-70-65—277
Bo Van Pelt (54), $102,400	70-70-69-68—277
Webb Simpson (54), $102,400	70-73-69-65—277
Y.E. Yang (54), $102,400	71-70-68-68—277
Ryuji Imada (54), $102,400	73-68-68-68—277
Matt Kuchar (48), $66,743	69-71-72-66—278
Jim Furyk (48), $66,743	71-70-68-69—278
Charlie Wi (48), $66,743	72-68-69-69—278
Brandt Snedeker (48), $66,743	66-72-69-71—278
Tim Wilkinson (48), $66,743	69-67-71-71—278
Kevin Sutherland (48), $66,743	69-71-68-70—278
Scott Verplank (48), $66,743	68-74-65-71—278
Robert Allenby (42), $45,440	72-69-70-68—279
Michael Allen (42), $45,440	69-70-71-69—279
Rod Pampling (42), $45,440	70-70-73-66—279
John Rollins (42), $45,440	71-71-67-70—279
K.J. Choi (42), $45,440	71-72-71-65—279
Michael Letzig (37), $36,224	71-72-68-69—280
Bryce Molder (37), $36,224	71-68-71-70—280
Tim Clark (37), $36,224	69-72-71-68—280
Stewart Cink (37), $36,224	71-71-67-71—280
Ryo Ishikawa (0), $36,224	68-68-72-72—280
Troy Matteson (31), $26,880	68-69-74-70—281
Justin Rose (31), $26,880	69-67-73-72—281
Charley Hoffman (31), $26,880	68-71-70-72—281
Chad Campbell (31), $26,880	70-72-71-68—281
Fred Couples (31), $26,880	69-72-72-68—281
Jonathan Byrd (31), $26,880	68-74-71-68—281
Woody Austin (31), $26,880	71-72-70-68—281
Jimmy Walker (31), $26,880	71-72-71-67—281
Rich Beem (26), $20,480	74-69-68-71—282
Phil Mickelson (26), $20,480	72-66-71-73—282
Briny Baird (22), $16,922	70-72-69-72—283
Brian Davis (22), $16,922	72-70-68-73—283
D.J. Trahan (22), $16,922	72-71-72-68—283
Vaughn Taylor (22), $16,922	73-70-72-68—283
Matt Bettencourt (22), $16,922	70-74-72-67—283
D.A. Points (19), $15,232	69-72-70-73—284
Anthony Kim (19), $15,232	71-66-69-78—284
Brenden Pappas (14), $14,464	71-68-72-74—285
John Merrick (14), $14,464	70-72-68-75—285
Martin Laird (14), $14,464	72-72-69-72—285
Aaron Baddeley (14), $14,464	72-72-70-71—285
Roland Thatcher (14), $14,464	68-73-74-70—285
Brett Quigley (14), $14,464	70-73-72-70—285
Mark Wilson (14), $14,464	72-72-72-69—285
Jeff Overton (7), $13,568	70-71-71-74—286
Stuart Appleby (7), $13,568	71-71-71-73—286
J.J. Henry (7), $13,568	70-73-71-72—286
Greg Chalmers (7), $13,568	71-73-70-72—286
Angel Cabrera (7), $13,568	71-73-71-71—286
Justin Leonard (7), $13,568	71-73-71-71—286
Ben Curtis (7), $13,568	73-68-75-70—286
Nicholas Thompson (3), $13,056	69-73-74-71—287
Craig Bowden (2), $12,864	69-74-73-73—289
Steve Flesch (2), $12,864	73-70-73-73—289
Parker McLachlin (1), $12,672	71-73-72-76—292
Kevin Streelman (1), $12,544	69-73-74-78—294
Made cut, but did not qualify for weekend play	
Nick O'Hern (1), $12,352	69-74-74—217
Bob Estes (1), $12,352	72-72-73—217
Fredrik Jacobson (1), $12,160	68-74-76—218
Rory Sabbatini (1), $11,840	68-74-77—219
David Duval (1), $11,840	68-75-76—219
Ryan Moore (1), $11,840	70-74-75—219
Bill Lunde (1), $11,840	72-72-75—219
Cameron Beckman (1), $11,456	67-77-76—220
Richard S. Johnson (1), $11,456	74-70-76—220

MANNING

From Page 28

a glance over his shoulder to watch Porter's romp to the end zone, unbuckled his chin strap, stood up and simply walked toward the bench.

"We probably never got into a great rhythm. We were certainly worse in lapses in our final possession," Manning said.

All week, this was the story line in Miami: Could Manning, a New Orleans boy through and through, deny the Saints in a game they desperately wanted to win for their city?

Turned out he helped his hometown team win its first Super Bowl - only not in the way he imagined.

Dad Archie Manning, the longtime star Saints quarterback, got caught smack in the middle.

"I was pulling for the Colts. I'm not quite over that, but I'm happy for New Orleans," he said.

"I don't know if I'm going to celebrate or not. Maybe later, when the city does, but I'm not in a celebrating mood. Glad to see everybody else in New Orleans celebrate. That's enough for me now," he said.

Added Archie: "I'm proud of him. ... It just wasn't meant to be."

His son repeated the word "disappointing" at least 10 times in his postgame interview session, using it to describe everything from the Colts not having the ball much in the second quarter to the interception that decided the title.

"We played well in the first playoff game, played well two weeks ago. We just didn't make enough plays against the Saints," Manning said.

"I understand how excited the Saints are, their families and the city of New Orleans is going to be," he said. "I'm sorry to our fans that we weren't able to get it done."

Until Porter cut in front of receiver Reggie Wayne on the left side, Manning seemed to be in charge. The four-time MVP did his dance at the line of scrimmage, putting his teammates in position, and zipped pass completions all over the field.

The Colts set an NFL record with seven fourth-quarter comebacks this season, and surely most everyone at Sun Life Stadium thought ol' Peyton was at it again. Down 24-17, the Colts were driving toward a tying score until Porter sealed it with 3:12 left.

Manning had been MVP of the Colts' victory in the Super Bowl on the very same field three years ago, and was a good bet to win the trophy once more. Instead, the night finished the same way his final college game at Tennessee ended—a bruising loss to Nebraska, also on this field.

Even after Porter's pick, Manning tried to rally the Colts. He moved them near the Saints' goal line, but a final pass to Wayne fell incomplete.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees, the beneficiary of Manning's pep talks while in college at Purdue, took a knee to run out the clock and start New Orleans' party. Manning left the field without seeing Brees.

"I'll certainly talk to Drew," Manning said. "There's not much consolation for the guys that didn't win. There's the stage being set up and the celebration."

Manning wound up 31 for 45 for 333 yards and one touchdown. He finished one short of the Super Bowl record for completions set by Tom Brady and tied by Brees, though the one pass he threw to the Saints will be the one that fans remember, and it'll be the pick that's shown on highlight films for years.

"It's kind of a play we've run a lot. Porter made a heck of play," Manning said.

Said Porter: "It was great film study. The coaches did a great job of preparing us for that route."

Known for their late rallies, the Colts lost by letting the Saints outscore them 15-0 in the final 15 minutes.

As he walked from the sideline to the huddle with his head down to start the fourth quarter, Manning suddenly found himself surrounded by three dozen Colts cheerleaders rushing off the field after their routine. He stopped, let them pass and kept on his way.

Early in the period, Manning made one of his few bad throws, floating a deep ball that fell incomplete near the goal line. Manning threw down a towel when he got to the bench.

Moments later, the giant video board showed his younger brother, Eli, in the crowd. Eli was the MVP of the Super Bowl two years ago as QB of the New York Giants, but there was no celebrating this time.

Most celebrities such as Jamie Foxx, Gloria Estefan and Scottie Pippen smiled when they showed up on the board. Not Eli. He merely looked straight ahead, a blank stare.

BREES

From Page 28

already on the downside. When Saints coach Sean Payton drove Brees around New Orleans hoping to sell him on joining the Saints, Brees realized, seeing residents struggling to cope with the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, that he'd found the perfect place to begin his own comeback.

"Four years ago, who ever thought this would happen?" he said, still fighting back tears.

Earlier, as confetti swirled just above the playing surface at Sun Life Stadium, Brees' eyes were already watering, trying not to cry as he held his son, Baylen, who was wearing a Saints jersey with his father's name on the back and a headset so the loud celebration wouldn't scare him. Brees struggled yet one more time to keep his emotions in check as he lifted the silver Lombardi trophy over his head.

But a few minutes into his postgame interview, Brees simply quit trying.

"Eighty-five percent of the city was under water, all the residents evacuated all over the country, people never knowing if they were coming back or if New Orleans would come back," he said. "But not only the city came back, and the team came back ... when the players got there, we all looked at one another and said, 'We're going to rebuild together.'

"We leaned on each other," Brees said, pausing as he choked up. "This is the culmination of that."

Yet in the same way that New Orleans' progress has come in fits and starts, so it was with the Saints on this night. After a rocky first quarter, Brees found his rhythm midway through the second quarter and finished with a record-tying 32 completions in 39 attempts for 288 yards and two touchdowns. He was never finer than during what turned out to be the go-ahead scoring drive, stringing together 10 straight completions.

What made it even more satisfying is that he outdueled Colts quarterback Peyton Manning.

"Phenomenal," wide receiver Marques Colston said. "You really can't put that kind of performance in words. To have 32 completions and two drops, he deserves the MVP.

"Hopefully," he added, "you guys can start putting Drew in that elite quarterback conversation."

Consider it a done deal.

Local fans whoop it up after Saints' victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Super Bowl tradition on Saipan lives on, as football fans on the island trooped to various bars and hotels and watched how New Orleans Saints stunned the Indianapolis Colts, 31-17, in yesterday's Super Bowl XLIV.

Avid followers from both camps took a leave from work to see the Colts and the Saints slug it out for the coveted Vince Lombardi trophy. Employees who couldn't get off from work, meanwhile, took a two-hour lunch break to at least watch the second half of the game.

Others also had their morning activities pushed back in the afternoon to find out if Peyton Manning will win his second Super Bowl ring or the Saints will end a 42-year drought.

The rest reserved the day a long time ago to enjoy football, great food, free-flowing drinks, and the company of friends, family members, and co-workers.

"The Super Bowl has become a tradition in the CNMI. You see people leaving the comforts of their home to experience the Super Bowl spirit even though we're miles away from where the real action was happening," said Mike Babauta, sales manager of Pacific Trading Co., which teamed up with various hotels and bars in bringing Super Bowl XLIV to Saipan.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hard Rock Saipan hosted 80 diehard football fans, majority of whom rooted for the New Orleans Saints.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jovie Flores and PIC's Deanne Nielsen celebrate, following the former's victory in a fun game during the halftime break of the Super Bowl XLIV yesterday at Charley's Cabaret.

Full house

Pacific Islands Club had its Super Bowl Party in the jam-packed Charley's Cabaret.

More than 160 spectators were at the venue and among them was California-based Lence Kubarii.

"I've been watching Super Bowl for five years and this was my first time to watch it here on Saipan. It's better here, as I watched the games in the company of a lot of people I know. The food was great, the halftime show was awesome, and we got to take some prizes," said Kubarii.

Fans who went to PIC enjoyed a breakfast buffet and burger treat from halftime until the end of the game from Triple J. PIC then raffled off gift certificates, while Pepsi/Miller Lite gave away cash prizes. All of these cost one only $20.

"It was a lively event, as we did not only watch the match, we also had a chance to participate in fun-filled games. It was a great experience," Kubarii added.

Comfort, service

Three other hotels, Palms Resort, Saipan Grand Hotel, and World Resort also hosted Super Bowl XLIV.

Palms Resort' showed Super Bowl XLIV at the PauPau Bar, opting for a much smaller but more convenient venue and getting more than 20 spectators

"At PauPau Bar, we get to enjoy the food and the game conveniently. There were no long lines and too much noise. We have the best seat (couch) here," Kagman resident Maggie Concepcion said.

Three flat screen TVs were used at PauPau Bar, allowing fans to choose the best spot they wanted. One TV was placed near the entrance, facing the two sala set, the second in front of the bar, and the third near the kitchen, facing another set of couch.

At Club V in Saipan Grand Hotel, several small TVs were used besides the main and biggest one, treating executives of a private company, Japanese guests, locals, and Docomo Pacific staff to a good show and hearty breakfast.

"We have a good turnout today. We've been doing this for the past two years as our way of thanking the community for their continued patronage. Also, Club V is committed to support various sports events on the island. We want to be of service to our sports-crazed community," assistant F&B manager Fernando "Ding" Ureta said.

A few meters from Club V, World Resort had its Super Bowl show at Red Box.

The turnout was a bit slow at Red Box during the first half of the Colts-Saints game, but a World Resort's staff said the bulk of fans usually come in the second half and they had already received many calls, inquiring for seats

"It would have been better if there were no classes today, as we can have a bunch of students joining us," the staff said.

In the past years, the Public School System scheduled seminars for teachers on the day of Super Bowl, giving students a chance to join the Super Bowl festivities.

Saints fans get twin treats

Three gridiron fans rooting for the eventual champions New Orleans Saints, meanwhile, took home spanking new phones, courtesy of IT&E, at MARPAC-organized Super Bowl events at Oleai Beach Bar and Grill, Godfather's Bar, and Hard Rock Saipan.

Richard Benavente won for himself a sleek Samsung phone and a Bud Bowl football in the raffle during halftime of Super Bowl XLIV.

MARPAC team leader Tom Basa said Oleai Beach Bar and Grill hosted some 40 people, majority of whom were New Orleans fans.

Another Saints fan, Tommy Ehrman of ITSI, is the proud owner of another Samsung phone after winning the raffle at Godfather's Bar.

Ehrman was just one of 80 diehard football fans who drove to the popular Garapan sports bar and watering hole to watch the big game.

MARPAC sales manager Jojo Camacho said it was a good crowd at Godfather's, while the bar's owner, Ron Biggers, said they ran out of souvenir T-shirts, which is a good ting.

Over at Hard Rock, Ehomas Sakuma was the winner of the Samsung phone and his wish was granted when Drew Brees and company also took home the coveted Vince Lombardi trophy.

Hard Rock Saipan operations manager Reynaldo Perez said about 80 fans turned out for the Super Bowl party—and like other venues—most of them rooted for New Orleans.

MBI, TBK win in Shirley's opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc. started its title defense bid on a winning note, while the debuting TBK Auto Care also prevailed in the opening day of the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

MBI outclassed host Shirley's in the curtain raiser, 85-75, while TBK escaped past Pepsi in the second game, 85-84.

Beefed up by its three recruits—Pando Muleta, Noel David, and Ivan De Vero—MBI took the driver's seat as early in the first quarter and foiled Shirley's repeated comeback bids in the next three periods to nail a 10-point win.

Muleta debuted for MBI with 27 points, making three triples and surprisingly getting several second-chance points in the paint after outwitting Shirley's frontliners in rebound plays. De Vero added 20, while David chipped in 18 to form the potent backcourt trio of MBI.

MBI's new players combined for 19 points in the first period, giving the defending champion a 20-13 lead. Shirley's Junar Guiab sliced it to three at halftime, 34-37, after hitting seven markers, while Errol Peredo fired 14 points in the third to help the host stay in the game, 57-61.

However, Shirley's still failed to neutralize Muleta, David, and De Vero in the payoff canto, as the trio combined for 17 markers to give MBI a double-digit winning margin.

In the second game, Kae Bernardo canned two free throws with 24 seconds to go in the fourth quarter to lift TBK to a come-from-behind win.

Pepsi behind Bonbon Cadagat's explosive game was in control of the match, leading by as much as 14 points in the second quarter, but collapsed in the last 4:32 of the tiff.

TBK managed to overhaul Pepsi's lead when the latter started losing its big men. Pepsi's Charles Cepeda fouled out early in the fourth quarter, Jojo Garon followed suit midway, and Alex Lauron joined them in the showers with less than two minutes left in the game. Facing Pepsi's much smaller frontliners, Kae Bernardo, Mel Capalad, and Bart Demapan asserted their might inside, connecting on a couple of three-point plays.

Demapan's three-point play tied the game at 78-all and it was a seesaw battle from thereon.

Pepsi had the lead for the last time, 84-83, after Cadagat made a floater, 32 seconds to go in the game. In TBK 's offensive set, Bernardo attacked inside, missed the shot, but drew a foul from a Pepsi defender. Bernardo's two free throws hit nothing but the bottom of the neat, swinging the lead to TBK, 85-84.

With 24 ticks left, Cadagat hung on to the leather, wasted several seconds before heading to the left wing. Then just when most people were expecting Cadagat to pull up for the last shot, the hot-shooting Pepsi guard became gun-shy. He made an entry pass to John Maratita near the free-throw area and the latter then kicked the ball out to Erlan Lansang at the right baseline. Lansang pulled up for a 10-footer, but his shot was too strong.

TBK grabbed the rebound and ran down the clock, as Pepsi forgot to give preemptive fouls.

Meanwhile, the second edition of the Shirley's caging drew 14 teams, more than doubling the number of squads entered in the inaugural league.

Joining the four teams that debuted on Sunday in this year's Shirley's caging are returnee Fiesta Resort & Spa and newcomers Bank of Guam, PSS McGraw-Hill, Cellular Pro, Aqua Resort Club, World Resort/Advance X-Terminators, Hard Rock Café, Toyota/AON, Mobil, and Pacific Islands Club. One more team, composed of players from Saipan Grand Hotel and Docomo Pacific, are likely to join the field.

Teams will play in a round-robin regular season and only the Top 8 squads will advance to the single-elimination playoffs.

A traditional parade of teams kicked of the league and opening rites followed. Gracing the opening ceremony were Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, NMASA president and BANMI secretary general Michael White, UBA president James Lee, and Shirley's general manager Susan Macario.

First Game

MBI 85 – Muleta 27, De Vero 20, David 18, Barbo 11, Trajano 8, Achas 1.

Shirley's 75 – Peredo 22, Opone 17, Guiab 13, Nicdao 12, Pablo 4, Mojar 4, Fradel 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-13, 37-34, 61-57, 85-75.

Second Game

TBK 85 – Bernardo 29, Capalad 19, Demapan 17, Pantaleon 17, De Vero 2, Laquian 1.

Pepsi 84 – Cadagat 34, Garon 14, Lauron 13, Lansang 12, Babauta 4, Obnimaga 4, Cepeda 3, Maratita 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-14, 28-40, 58-65, 85-84.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI's Noel David, right, goes for a running jumper against Shirley's Coffee Shop's Dindo Laxa during the opening game in Shirley's caging on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Local fans whoop it up after Saints' victory

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Sports

Magic use 19-0 burst in 3rd to top Celtics

PAGE 24

Brees and Saints win Super Bowl

New Orleans beat Colts, 31-17

By BARRY WILNER
AP FOOTBALL WRITER

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—The ultimate underdogs, they ain't. Not anymore. The Saints are Super Bowl champions now. Who Dat? Try Drew Brees, Sean Payton and a team that has reversed its embarrassing past, carrying an entire city to the top with it.

Put away those paper bags forever.

Brees and the Saints rallied to upset Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 Sunday night in one of pro football's most thrilling title games.

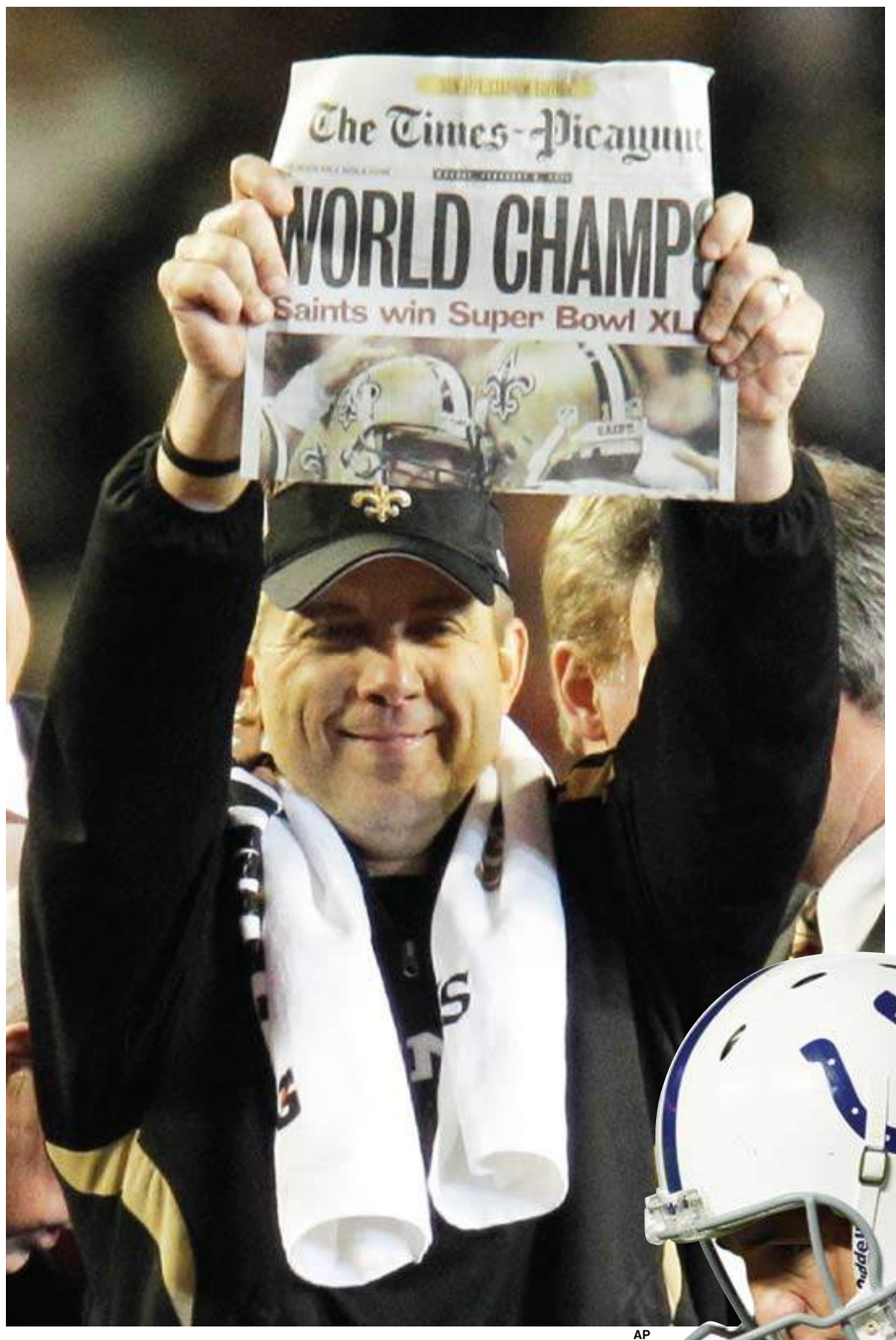
"We just believed in ourselves and we knew that we had an entire city and maybe an entire country behind us," said Brees, the game's MVP. "What can I say? I tried to imagine what this moment would be like for a long time, and it's better than expected."

But not something many expected from these descendants of the hapless Aints, who were 5-point underdogs.

"Four years ago who ever thought this would be happening when 85 percent of the city was under water from (Hurricane) Katrina?" Brees said. "Most people not knowing if New Orleans would ever come back or if the organization and the team would come back. ... This is the culmination of that belief and that faith."

Brees tied a Super Bowl record with 32 completions, the last a 2-yard slant to Jeremy Shockey for the winning points

See NEW ORLEANS on Page 26



AP

New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton displays a newspaper after the Saints beat the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 in the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) holds his son Baylen after the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game against the Indianapolis Colts, in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

Brees answers 'Who dat?' with MVP performance

By JIM LITKE
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

MIAMI (AP)—Drew Brees grew up in Texas and started playing for pay in faraway San Diego. But he made New Orleans his home and its cause uniquely his own.

After 43 years of futility and one of the finest quarterbacking performances ever delivered in a Super Bowl, he made sure there's no need to ask "Who dat?" anymore.

Thanks to Brees, the answer to "Who dat say they gonna beat them Saints?" is: nobody.

"We just believed in ourselves and we knew that we had an entire city and maybe an entire country behind us," he said after being voted MVP in New Orleans' 31-17 win over the Indianapolis Colts. "What can I say? I tried to imagine what this moment would be like for a long time, and it's better than expected."

"I'm just feeling like it was all meant to be. What can I say? The birth of my son, and in the first year of his life we won a Super Bowl championship."

The people of New Orleans will embrace him now tighter than some of their kinfolk. It didn't hurt, of course, that when Brees arrived in 2006, both he and the city were at a crossroad.

A torn labrum in his throwing shoulder in the final game of the 2005 season, coupled with the Chargers' acquisition of promising young passer Philip Rivers, made Brees expendable and left him wondering whether his career was

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Manning throws away bid for one final comeback

By BEN WALKER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—Peyton Manning spent the whole season building toward a Super Bowl crown, a win that certainly would put him among the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history.

And then he threw it all away.

Blocked onto his butt, Manning could only watch as Tracy Porter returned an interception for a clinching, 74-yard touchdown in the final minutes Sunday that gave the New Orleans Saints a 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

"It's certainly disappointing. Very disappointed. Disappointed," Manning said.

It was a startling end to a Super Bowl that seemed destined to wind up in Manning's strong right hand. It was the lone turnover of a back-and-forth thriller—who in the world would have thought the big mistake could be made by Manning?

Yet there he was, sitting on the grass after brawny Saints defensive end Will Smith knocked him down as he tried to make a tackle. Manning took

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AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) reacts during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game against the New Orleans Saints in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.